

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News

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RATNER'S SHADOW LOOMS

Pratt study: Atlantic Yards would put Fort Greene in darkness

WORST START EVER! Yanks crush Clones 18-0

By Vince DiMiceli
The Brooklyn Papers

The Brooklyn Cyclones sixth home opener was over before it started.

Well, actually, it was over the minute Kyle Larsen — the Staten Island Yankees power-hitting first baseman — stepped up to the plate in the first inning and smashed an 0-2 fastball into the Keyspan Park bleachers, quieting an exuberant Opening Night crowd and putting the Yanks up for good 2-0 Tuesday.

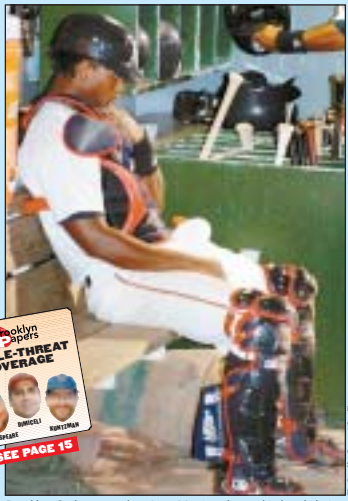
And before the over-capacity crowd of 9,004 could even finish their first round of Chef One fried dumplings — the newest savory treats at the ballpark — the Clones were down 10-0, thanks to a seven-run second inning that was punctuated by a Tony Roth three-run dinger to left.

Thus began a horrible evening at the sold-out seaside ballpark in Coney Island, which has been hosting record crowds since it was opened in 2001.

It got worse the next night on Staten Island, when the Cyclones blew a five-run lead, allowing the Yankees to win, 8-7.

But on Tuesday night, the Keyspan faithful, as ever, were undaunted by the Yankee fusillade, sticking around — and continuing to suck down the delectable potstickers long enough to see the Yanks tack on three more runs in the third, thanks to slopping fielding and Larsen's second homer of the young season.

The Cyclones made five errors on the night — six if you count show-



Brooklyn Cyclones catcher Joan Martinez hangs his head during Tuesday night's thrashing by the Staten Island Yankees.



SEE PAGE 15



Sandy the Seagull rides in to Keyspan Park with the "longest first pitch ever."

ing up. The game ended, mercilessly, at close to 11 pm with the score 18-0 — the worst loss in Cyclone history, an illustrious five years that have included one championship, plenty of playoff drama and a dozen players sent to the majors.

But this week, the Yankees were crowing. "This was a good start to the year," said Larsen, a second-year Yankee, who had an MVP-caliber season for the NY-Penn League champs last year. "It was good to see the team come out strong. This was as fun game."

But not so much fun for Cyclones fans. The only time the crowd came alive was **OPENER** on page 15

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner has been accused of many things, but now he's being accused of stealing the sun from the sky.

According to a new analysis by a Pratt Institute professor and two students, shadows from the developer's Atlantic Yards mega-project would darken a wide swath of Brooklyn from Prospect Heights to Downtown — including a strip in Fort Greene that won the "Greenest Block in Brooklyn" contest in 2002.

At its worst — at 9 am on Dec. 21 — the shadow from the 62-story "Miss Brooklyn" building, proposed for the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, would extend all the way to Fulton and Gold streets.

"Shadows from September to March will be severe," said Brent Porter, the Pratt professor. "Once those buildings go up, the shadowing will be forever."

Porter said he and his students — Roman Strazhko and Samanthu Sommers — do not see **SHADOWS** on page 16



A Pratt Institute study produced this rendering of winter shadows that would be cast on Fort Greene if Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards is built. The existing Williamsburgh Savings Bank building is the thin tower at the far left.

LETTERS P 8



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BROOKLYN BRIEFS CONEY ISLE LOVES DICK SEE PAGE 2

Class of 2006

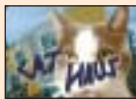
At Pratt Institute, one graduate showed up ready for his first day on the job. See how college and high school students commemorated the first day of the rest of their lives, in our graduation special, **PAGES 16-17**.



B-CAT fight over kitty comedy

Local cablecasters to sue Animal Planet for stealing feline reality format

Tail of the Tape



BCAT producer Steve de Seve says Animal Planet stole his feline reality show, "Cat Haus," for its show "Meow Mix House." Here's how the two shows stack up. — Rubinstein



| Cat Haus | CAT REALITY SHOW | Meow Mix House |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nine kitties, some of them formerly feral | Kitty population | Ten formerly feral kitties |
| Strictly public access | Budget | Beyond basic cable |
| Meow Meow La Pew, from France | Promiscuous pussy | Bambi, from Manhattan |
| Al E. Cat and Cali Cat | Texan cat(s) | Sam |
| One floating cat head | Opening graphic | Ten floating cat heads |
| Personify cats | Human role | Host, voiceovers, laugh track |
| Friskies Buffet, Chicken (NOT Meow Mix) | Favorite cuisine | Meow Mix |

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

It's the purr-fect crime.

The creator of BCAT's "Cat Haus" is threatening to sue Animal Planet for allegedly ripping off his two-year-old low-budget show in its own prime-time version.

Animal Planet's "Meow Mix House" is a three-minute spot that aired for the first time last Friday at 9 pm. Like "Cat Haus," "Meow Mix House" is a reality-show spoof featuring live cats with "personalities" voiced by humans. At the end of each episode, one cat gets voted off the show.

Could two producers have independently come up with the same genius idea?

Steve de Seve, the BCAT producer, thinks not. "Their show was clearly stolen from our show," he said.

"They even have fake talent commercials, which is one of our trademarks," he added. "The cats have all been given personalities, including a streetwise cat and a Texas cat. My show has these personalities. Our show is tongue and cheek. Their show is tongue and cheek."

Those aren't the only similarities. In both shows, "Meow" is the greeting of choice. And both shows have a certain raunchy sense of humor.

Then again, there are some differences, too.

Animal Planet's version has a host, a voiceover, and a laugh track, while BCAT's does not.

De Seve threatened to sue Animal Planet if it went ahead and broadcast its show. The network did not cower.

"They said they were going to air it anyway and risk a lawsuit," said de Seve.

"We're looking for the right [lawyer], and we're suing them for at least \$3 million" — an amount de Seve estimates his show would have been worth before "Meow Mix House" destroyed its commercial value.

"Who will buy my show once it's already been done commercially?" said de Seve, who is also the producer of "Brooklyn vs. Bush," another popular BCAT show.

The producers of "Meow Mix" said they were stunned at de Seve's charges — mostly because they never heard of de Seve.

"Neither 'Meow Mix,' [sponsor] Del Monte Foods nor [public relations firm] Grand Central Marketing have previously heard of or seen the program referred by Mr. de Seve," said Keith Fernbach, a spokesman for the show. "The claims asserted by him have no merit." Me-ow!



Let's go crazy!

Prince dropped in unexpectedly at the opening night of Celebrate Brooklyn last Thursday. The white-suited song-and-dance man jumped onto the stage just as headline saxophonist and sometime collaborator, Macao Parker, was beginning his encore. The fuchsia-favoring funkster performed one seven-minute song from his new album, "3121."

— Brendan Mylviskie

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June 24, 2006

BROOKLYN BRIEFS

Coney group loves Dick

The Brooklyn Papers

Finally, someone from the amusement park business will have a say over the future of Coney Island. Sideshow creator Dick Zigun was named to the board of directors of the Coney Island Development Corporation this week — the first time a board

member has come from the neighborhood's amusement industry. "I am thrilled that the mayor or thinks the unofficial Mayor of Coney Island is the official unofficial mayor," said Zigun. "I take my appointment seriously and promise to work hard to represent both the arts and the amusement industry."



Dick Zigun, who runs the Coney Island Sideshow, has been named to a key neighborhood board.

Zigun wouldn't comment on why the three-year-old CIDC — the city entity charged with reinvigorating Coney Island — hadn't yet included anyone from the amusement industry.

"I don't want to talk about the past," said Zigun. "A new position has opened up, and I think the best possible person was appointed."

Other Coney Islanders hold Zigun in as much esteem as he holds himself.

"Dick is as much a part of Coney Island as the Boardwalk and the beach," said Chuck Reichenthal, district manager of Community Board 13, which includes Coney Island.

Zigun founded the Coney Island Circus Sideshow in 1983. He sees his two-year term as a rare opportunity.

The CIDC gets it," said Zigun. "It's probably the Coney Island's best chance in decades to turn things around."

— Dana Rubinstein

City seeks Hook visionaries

The Brooklyn Papers

The city Economic Development Corporation has asked developers to submit their visions for a waterfront storage area next to the new Brooklyn Cruise Ship Terminal at the foot of Pioneer Street.

The city's request, issued June 20, is a first step in crafting a master plan for Red Hook's 1.1-mile waterfront, long a working port separated from the surrounding neighborhood with a guarded fence. As reported in The Brooklyn Papers, the city wants to turn Red Hook's waterfront



into a mixed-use maritime-themed destination. "We want to see what kind of interest there is in putting a [recreational] marina there and

maybe somewhere for people to fix their boats," David Court, project manager for the EDC, told Community Board 6 last week.

Competition is stiff. One plan from New York Water Taxi includes a facility for boat repairs and fueling, plus a new home for the New York Harbor School, a marine-oriented charter school now landlocked in Bushwick.

Another bidder, PortSide New York, wants bring a vintage tanker ship, the 170-foot Mary A. Whalen (left), to the basin and convert it into a floating maritime-history museum.

Indisiders say the city is leaning towards New York Water Taxi, given that its existing dock is at risk because of a previous city zoning decision.

— Ariela Cohen

Censored college artists sue

The Brooklyn Papers

The Parks Department violated the free speech of 18 student artists when it hastily shut down their show on the grounds that the artwork was "inappropriate," a new lawsuit charges.

Eighteen Brooklyn College student artists sued Mayor Bloomberg, the Parks Department, the parks official who shut down the show, and even their own college, in Brooklyn

federal court this week. The suit charges that Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Julius Spiegel violated the students' First and 14th Amendment rights when he shut down the May exhibition and changed the locks on the War Memorial, where the artwork was hanging. "His decision was unreasonable and based solely upon his subjective belief that some of the artwork was allegedly not appropriate for families," the

suit charges. "He, thus, used his own unfettered discretion to censor" the artists. At the time, Spiegel said some of the artwork in the show, called "Plan B," violated a verbal agreement that he had with Brooklyn College requiring that the student shows be "appropriate for families and veterans."

The artists' lawyer, Norman Siegel, disputed whether Spiegel actually had an agreement

with the college — and said the agreement wouldn't hold up in court anyway. "You can't have a government official deciding what is appropriate," said Siegel, a member of the Brooklyn College Class of 1965. "That's the fundamental definition of censorship."

Spiegel has refused to answer questions on the topic. The suit seeks unspecified damages. — Gersh Kuntzman

Hillary snubbed by more lefty Dems

The Brooklyn Papers

You gotta hand it to Sen. Hillary Clinton — she's definitely a unitar. Conservatives don't like her and liberals don't like her.

For the second time in as many months, Clinton was snubbed by a liberal Brooklyn Democratic club, which gave its endorsement to her senatorial rival, Jonathan Tasini.

"The club is troubled by her position on the Iraq war," said

Josh Skaller, president of Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats, which last week mocked the Brooklyn Democrats for Change in endorsing Tasini over Clinton.

"She has taken a very conservative stance on the war and not articulated what she would do to end it quickly," Skaller said Tasini won the club's June 15 endorsement vote "by a large margin."

While club endorsements don't always lead to election

wins, the news comes at a bad time for Clinton. A new Siena College poll put her approval ratings at an 18-month low, with voters citing her support for the war as a reason.

Fifty-four percent of respondents now have a favorable view of Clinton, down from a high of 61 percent. Skaller attributed Clinton's slip to her move to the center. "She's losing more and more of her base on the left," he said.

Tasini couldn't agree more. "People are holding her accountable for the war," he said.

Clinton campaign spokesman Howard Wolfson dismissed the slip in poll numbers — and dismissed Tasini, instead focusing on Clinton's presumptive Republican challenger, John Spencer.

"Her numbers in the horse race against Mr. Spencer remained stable and good," Wolfson said. — Kuntzman

Invisible WiFi in Bridge Park



Thomas Callori relaxes — sans computer — in the newly WiFi-connected waterfront park in DUMBO.

The Brooklyn Papers

If a wireless network is active, but nobody is surfing the Web, does it really exist?

Metaphysics aside, yes. But on a recent afternoon, when plenty of sunbathers, dog-walkers, and parents with children were relaxing in the waterfront park at the foot of Washington Street in DUMBO, nobody was using the site's

free wireless Internet access, which went online on June 1. "If I knew I had wireless, I would have brought my work," said Aja Harris, who stopped at the park to read a newspaper.

An actual paper. Park-goers might not know about the new wireless service — after all, a WiFi signal is not as obvious as a park bench or a dog run.

A Parks Department spokesperson said they are still "working out the details" of ad-

vertising the service in the park — the first in Brooklyn to offer free broadband Internet.

"We haven't been able to get the word out as much as we'd like," said Tucker Reed, executive director of the DUMBO Improvement District.

Prospect Park is expected to join the WiFi club later this summer. The Brooklyn Heights Promenade and Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Fort Greene parks will go online later.

— Sara Vogel

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Teen terrors show no 'Love' in Heights

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested a trio of teenage girls who attacked a woman in the heart of Brooklyn Heights, stole her cellphone and sent her to the hospital for stitching up.

The trio crept up behind the 25-year-old victim as she made her way home on Hicks Street, near Love Lane, around 10:30 p.m. They shoved her to the ground, where she suffered a cut forehead, and punched and kicked the victim until she gave

POLICE BLOTTER

up her cellphone.

The teenagers fled with the phone, but thanks to a group of witnesses, they didn't get away. Police caught all three, two 13-year-olds and a 12-year-old, on robbery charges.

Daytime heist

Two thugs with a gun robbed a 23-year-old man — and ran off with much of his

identity — near Fulton Mall on June 15, police said.

The victim cashed a check on Willoughby Street and made his way across the pedestrian shopping strip when he was attacked on the corner of Livingston and Hoyt streets, at 2:30 p.m.

One thief pulled a black handgun from his waistband and demanded, "Give me your

money," while the second thug snatched his wallet. The thieves jumped into a black Lincoln and sped off before the victim could catch a plate number.

Police are now searching for a black man, 5-feet-8 and 160 pounds, with long hair, covered that day with a blue 'do-rag. The second thug is described as a black man, also 5-feet-8, but a bit heavier, at 180 pounds.

The stolen items included a non-driver ID card, a Social Security card, a birth certificate, medical insurance information and \$200.

Gun threat

A request for the time of day turned into a robbery when two thugs encountered a 16-year-old on Schermerhorn Street on June 18.

The thieves walked up to the youngster as he neared Smith Street, around 10:30 a.m., police said. One punk said, "Let me see your watch."

But when the boy extended his arm to offer a view of the face, the thug altered his demand: "No, let me see your watch — I got the natch on me," he warned, using a slang term for a handgun, as he motioned to his waistband.

The second thief stepped up, grabbed the timepiece, rifled the victim's pockets and fled with the watch and \$18. But they didn't get far.

The victim flagged down to plainclothes police officers from the 84th Precinct who checked the neighborhood and found the suspects on the corner of Fulton and Bond streets. The suspects, both 21, now face felony robbery charges.

Musical chairs

Thirty aluminum chairs fled the captivity of an enclosed courtyard on Old Fulton Street last week, police said.

Workers at Grimaldi's Pizzeria, near the base of the Brooklyn Bridge, had stacked the outdoor furniture — valued at \$1,000 in their courtyard at 11:30 p.m. on June 10. Given the stretch of rainy weather that followed, nobody considered outdoor dining for a number of days.

But the sun eventually broke through the clouds, and the workers went out to check their furniture around 3 p.m. on June 15. Instead, they found that the chairs had disappeared.

It's not clear how the furniture got away.

Fake found

A tuzuzi? Fudgeabawditi.

But it was true. Someone snatched a \$5,400 diamond from a busy Fulton Street jewelry store and left glittering fake behind, police said.

Diamond experts at the jewelry franchise, near Gallatin Place, tested the rock on June 10 and determined it was real. But two days later, an employee discovered a large diamond loose in its setting. When the store restyled the rock, they realized they'd been had.

Stolen time

Burglars stole electronics, foreign currency, custom jewelry and 10 watches from a State Street apartment on June 15, police said.

The 53-year-old victim left his home, near Hoyt Street, at 11:30 a.m. When he returned around 5:30 p.m., he found the door unlocked and wedged open. And the screen on a window facing the alley was cut.

The prowlers ransacked the bedroom and loaded up with more than \$3,000 in goods, including a cellphone, CD player, tie clips and cufflinks valued at \$500, a pair of gold rings with blue ovals, and an antique silver ring valued at \$800, police said.

Proposed artist rescue

The Brooklyn Papers

Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Brooklyn Heights) has proposed a grant program that would help create space for artists.

The bill would establish a program through which artists could apply for grants to establish "live-work" co-ops with a partnering arts organization.

Millman supported a program

in Sunset Park, which gave small business owners grants to create shared office facilities. "Why not push the envelope and give the same opportunity to artists, who aren't big names but are working hard in our communities?" she said.

The executive director of DUMBO's Smack Mellon Gallery called the legislation "absolutely necessary."

"Artists are paying double

rent for living space and a studio," said Kathleen Gilrain. "They can't afford it. And if they leave, the galleries will leave, too."

So far the only criticism Millman has gotten comes from artists who wish she had introduced the bill sooner.

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— Ariella Cohen

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The Brooklyn Papers • Justin J. White

Nice catch!

Hours before the Brooklyn Cyclones' home opener on Tuesday, Mets catcher Paul Lo Duca stopped by the Brooklyn Heights Library to read four books, including the unforgettable "Click Clack Moo," to schoolkids. As a gaggle of 9-year-olds begged for autographs, Lo Duca reminisced about his days in the minor leagues in San Antonio. "A lot of doing your own laundry," he said, "and eating at Denny's."

Hospital worker sends colleague to hospital

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A dispute between two workers at New York Methodist Hospital ended violently when one man stabbed the other in the stomach a few blocks from their job on June 17.

The 31-year-old victim said his co-worker had been threatening him with "staring and intimidation," and the two began to argue. Eventually they agreed to take their differences outside, so they walked up Fourth Street just before 8 pm.

Somewhere between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, the aggressor wheeled around to face the victim with a knife drawn. He plunged the three-inch blade into the man's stomach and ran off with the knife.

The victim returned to work, where doctors patched him up. Police are still looking for the assailant.

Mixer missing

Someone disappeared with a cement mixer worth \$5,400 from a construction site on Sixth Street, police said.

POLICE BLOTTER

A representative of the Manhattan company that owns the device said the Whiteman Multi-Quip dump mixer was at the job site, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, at 5:30 pm on June 9. When the crew returned at 7 am on June 13, the cement mixer was gone.

iPod grabbed

A thief snatched an iPod from a woman riding the 2 train on June 17, police said.

The 28-year-old victim boarded the Flatbush Avenue-bound subway at Hoyt Street around 7:30 pm. Just before the train reached the Grand Army Plaza station, the thief grabbed the digital music device and fled onto Flatbush Avenue.

Police are searching for a black man, 5-foot-9 and 140 pounds, dressed that day in black and blue.

Pocket slashed

A Queens man lost his wallet to a thief who cut open his pocket while the

victim dozed on a Manhattan-bound F train on June 18, police said.

The 21-year-old victim awoke from his slumber around 5:15 am to discover he had been robbed. He left the train at the Union Street station, at Fourth Avenue, and called 911.

The wallet held credit and bank cards, a non-driver ID, insurance information, \$50 and several paychecks.

Californian screaming

Robbers ransacked the car of a California woman dining with her family on June 15, police said.

The 47-year-old victim parked her 2006 Chevy SUV on Sackett Street, near Fourth Avenue, at 10:30 pm and joined her family in a restaurant nearby. When she returned to the car around 12:45 am, the rear driver's side window was busted and nearly \$6,000 in items missing.

The stolen goods included a laptop and high-end camera equipment.

Millman: Our artists must be protected

The Brooklyn Papers

Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Park Slope) has proposed a grant program that would help create space for artists.

The bill would establish a program through which artists could apply for grants to establish "live-work" co-ops with a partnering non-profit arts organization.

Millman supported a similar program in Sunset Park, which gave small business owners grants to create shared office facilities.

"Why not push the envelope and give the same opportunity to artists, who aren't big names but are working hard in our communities?" she said.

The executive director of

DUMBO's Smack Mellon Gallery called the legislation "absolutely necessary."

"Artists are paying double rent for living space and a studio," said Kathleen Gilrain. "They can't afford it. And if they leave, the galleries will leave, too."

So far the only criticism Millman has gotten comes from artists who wish she had introduced the bill sooner.

Last week, Steve Ludlum — a painter best known as "the Orchid Man" for the rare flora he grows in DUMBO — received an eviction notice at his Bridge Street loft, which, like so many artists' live-work spaces, is giving way for luxury condos.

"The bill is a little late," he told The Brooklyn Papers. "I

gave this [idea] to her five years ago!"

The migratory pattern of artists is well known: they move to a forgotten part of town, pretty it up and then are forced to leave after they can no longer afford the rents of their newly "discovered" neighborhoods.

Millman's bill would mimic a similar artist subsidy created in San Francisco in the late 1990s. That program came under attack after developers took the cash to produce high-priced designer lofts that working artists couldn't afford — but Millman hopes to avoid that fate by filtering the grants through non-profit arts groups and requiring tenants to show proof of income.

— Ariella Cohen



The Brooklyn Papers • Justin J. White

Oh, you GO girl!

The Brooklyn Papers GO Brooklyn editor, Lisa J. Curtis (second from right), accepts an award from Regina Cahill of the North Flatbush Avenue BID last week. Tony Atterbury, owner of Heights Coffee (far right) and Mirvlyne Brice, also of the BID, look on.



Collection of 21 Photos

1960 crash memories

The Brooklyn Papers

Here's a never-before published photo of the infamous Dec. 16, 1960, airplane collision that rained death and destruction on Park Slope's Seventh Avenue.

The new look at an old haunt was discovered by H. Allen Jones, whose father snapped the picture minutes after a United DC-8 came to rest in the neighborhood's main shopping strip.

The plane had collided in mid-air with a TWA Super-Constellation, which crashed into the New Dorp section of Staten Island, killing all 44 aboard.

The 83 people on the United plane

also died — as well as five people on the ground.

Jones said he was playing hooky and listening to records with his girlfriend in her apartment on Sterling Place (just beyond the bright red Texaco star in the top center of the photo).

"We thought it was a bomb," he said.

Only years later, he discovered his father's badly damaged photo and had it restored.

He's now selling clean prints of it — laminated and with a one-page fact sheet about the crash — for \$20 at Galaxy Photo Labs on Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights. Call (718) 398-9880 for information.

— Moses Jefferson

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A robbery so Deere at Dyker links

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

The thieves didn't raid the clubhouse for liquor, or break into the pro shop for a few sets of golf clubs. But

the burglars who targeted the Dyker Beach Golf Course last week headed straight for a garage and rode off on a John Deere tractor — possibly with a

tiller in tow, police said.

The thieves slipped inside the 86th Street public course, whose fairways stretch from Seventh to 14th avenues, after 10 pm on June 12. A 37-year-old member of the grounds crew arrived at 9 am the next day to find the lock on the maintenance shed clipped, stuff inside rearranged and the John Deere equipment missing.

Police have few leads on the would-be farmers.

Home collision

A 73-year-old woman was killed when her nephew mistakenly backed into her with his Jeep Cherokee on June 16, police said.

Police called the 2:30 pm collision a tragic accident, and driver Colagero Falzone, 26, was not issued any tickets.

Falzone was backing up as his aunt, Rosa Carmanno, was standing on 13th Avenue near 68th Street, waving goodbye to her nephew and a car load of relatives, police confirmed. Falzone said the 1994 Jeep malfunctioned and skipped onto the curb and plowed into his aunt.

It took several bystanders to pull the vehicle off the victim,

POLICE BLOTTER

reports said, and Carmanno was pronounced dead shortly after at Lutheran Hospital.

Quick hit
Burglars targeted a 70th Street house left vacant for less than 40 minutes on June 1, but they never got inside, police said.

The 54-year-old resident left her home at 10 am and returned within the hour to find pry marks on the basement door. Thankfully, the thieves left behind a clue in the form of a fingerprint on a back basement door at the home, just off Eighth Avenue.

Brewskie battle

It's not that the victim can't handle his drink. But what's a man to do when someone hurls a case at him?

Police arrested an 18-year-old thug who allegedly followed a 43-year-old man home to his 68th Street building, and forced his way inside, where he assaulted the man at 10 pm on June 17.

The victim said the brute

punched and kicked him at first, then threw a case of beer at him. Paramedics rushed the man to the hospital where he required stitches on his right foot and developed severe bruises on his left arm.

Details on the brew, and whether it was bottled or canned, were unavailable.

Life's lesson

While the college student studied, the burglar staged a break-in.

The 25-year-old woman left her Ridge Boulevard apartment around 5 pm on June 13, police said. When she returned to the home, near 68th Street, at 8:30 pm, she found her front door was open and over \$18,000 in electronics and jewelry missing.

The stolen goods included a laptop computer, a diamond pendant and her \$14,000 engagement ring.

Bat attack

Police arrested a 17-year-old girl after she allegedly clobbered another teenage girl with a baseball bat during a June 15 fight.

The teens' argument grew violent shortly after 2 pm, as the girls fought on 85th Street near 19th Avenue. That's when the younger girl picked

up a baseball bat and beat the 18-year-old victim on the head, sending her to the hospital. The Louisville slugger fled on 85th Street.

Phone snatched

A plea to use the phone turned out to be a robbery ruse on June 17.

But police later arrested one of two thieves who allegedly grabbed a cellphone from a teenager walking along 68th Street, near 21st Avenue.

The pair of thieves had approached the 17-year-old victim around 7:30 pm and asked to borrow the phone, police said. But one thing snatched the phone, and the pair escaped in a black vehicle with New York plates.

Police caught up with the cell-snatcher later and arrested the 18-year-old on grand larceny charges.

Troubled teen?

A West Ninth Street resident suspects a teenage friend of her son may have broken into her home to steal cash, electronics and prescription drugs, police said.

The 38-year-old woman awoke on June 15 to discover that someone had crawled through a back window at her home, near Highland Avenue.

The intruder rummaged through her personal belongings and ran off with \$200, a cellphone and a bottle of Darvocet.

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Bandits steal phony pony

The Brooklyn Papers

The bandits didn't go for the cash cow. They picked up the cash pony.

Robbers in a blue commercial van snatched a kid's coin-operated borsy ride from in front of a store on Fifth Avenue, near 86th Street, around 11:30 am on June 13, police said. Officers were quickly contacted, but a search of the area did not turn up the thieves.

Apparently, it isn't the first pony ride that has giddy-upped out of Brooklyn.

Owners of the concessions, Aardvark Amusements, on 86th Street, told police another ride disappeared from a sidewalk within in Coney Island's 60th Precinct just a day earlier.

According to the company's Web site, Aardvark rents video games, concessions, rides, clowns, and magicians, and can organize anything from a block party to a corporate event. The site says the company is an "industry leader" and they promise to "take the worry out of all special events."

But when contacted about the recent horse-theft, a company spokesman did not call back.

—Stainton

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79th St. & Shore Road Park

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Wed., June 28

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

Alive N Kickin (Hit Record "Tighter and Tighter")

Wed., July 5

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

Art Lillard Band (Swing, Jazz and Big Band Sound)

Fri., July 7

Parkville (65th St. & 8th Ave.)

Tony Sands (Sounds of Sinatra)

Tues., July 11

79th St. & Shore Road Park

Head Over Heels (#1 Party Band)

Wed., July 12

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

Roadhouse County Band w/ Line Dance Instructor

Fri., July 14

Van Sicklen & Avenue U

City Sounds (Old & New Dance Hits)

Mon., July 17

79th St. & Shore Road Park (Little League Field)

Time Was (Doo Wop and Oldies)

Tues., July 18

Dyker Park (86th St. & 14th Ave.)

Emanon (50's - 90's Favorite Songs)

Wed., July 19

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

John Travolta Impersonator

Disco Night with Carol Douglas

Tues., July 25

79th St. & Shore Road Park

Frankie Marra (Classic Rock Party Band)

Wed., July 26

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

Emanon (50's - 90's Favorite Songs)

Wed., June 28

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

Alive N Kickin (Hit Record "Tighter and Tighter")

Mon., July 31

18th Ave. & 82nd St.

Brooklyn Keys (50's - 70's Oldies)

Tues., Aug. 1

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Wed., Aug. 2

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

Head Over Heels (#1 Party Band)

Tues., Aug. 8

79th St. & Shore Road Park • Raindate Aug. 14th

David Cedeno (American Oldies with a Latin Beat)

Wed., Aug. 9

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.) • Raindate Aug. 30th

Jeff Samaha Presents "Smokey Joe's Café"

Fri., Aug. 11

Parkville (65th St. & 8th Ave.)

Frankie Marra (Classic Rock Party Band)

Tues., Aug. 15

79th St. & Shore Road Park • Raindate Aug. 28th

Rod Stewart Tribute Band featuring Ric Prince

Wed., Aug. 16

Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

Time Was (Do Wop and Oldies)

Fri., Aug. 18

Van Sicklen & Avenue U

Benny Troy (Classic Sounds from the 50's - 90's)

Mon., Aug. 21

79th St. & Shore Road Park (Little League Field)

Sly (R&B, Soul and New Orleans Sound)

Tues., Aug. 22

Dyker Park (86th St. & 14th Ave.)

Reminisce (Hit Songs of the 50's, 60's & 70's)

Wed., Aug. 23

Family Day Marine Park (Fillmore Ave.)

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Tues., Aug. 29

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Adult & Kid Karaoke Contest/Face Painting/

Balloon Maker/Magic Show and Much More

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Politics invade 68th Precinct's Community Council election

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Was it an illegal coup — or just sloppy record-keeping — that embroiled a Bay Ridge community group this week?

A small group of neighborhood leaders — some tied to the Conservative Party — pushed through a slate of officers to the board of the 68th Precinct Community Council on Tuesday night, turning a usually routine meeting into a controversy that reverberated from the 65th Street station-house all the way to the halls of Congress.

The allegedly tainted election had the losers crying foul. "Truth, justice, and the American way were trampled in the 68th Precinct," Peter Killen, a retired detective, said one day after the stormy June 20 meeting.

"They stole the election." Although much of what happened remains enshrouded in mystery, certain facts are clear:

- Police Department regulations state that all candidates for community council offices must already be council members. And the only people eligible to vote in such elections are those who attended three or more meetings within the preceding year.

- Before this year's vote, sign-in sheets from some prior meetings were lost, making it impossible to say with certainty who was eligible to vote and who was not.

- The council's three-person election committee decided to ignore the guidelines and open the election to dozens of voters who may or may not have been members in good standing. The committee claimed that sign-in sheets are only recommended, not required,

and have never been the norm within the 68th Precinct.

"We felt it would be improper to punish the public for sloppy record-keeping," explained Lt. James Woods, commander of Brooklyn South's Community Affairs Unit, who gave the final go-ahead. "We wanted to abide by the spirit of the guidelines...and give everyone a voice."

But according to Killen, the three members of the election committee — Fran Vella Marone, Josephine Beckmann and Jane Kelly — all have ties to the Conservative Party.

Beckmann is also district manager of the neighborhood's community board. The controversy turned Tuesday's meeting into an old-fashioned, jam-packed broadha. In one dramatic moment, Killen, a Democrat, turned his back on the podium and encouraged the crowd not to participate in an "illegal election."

The election, however, went on as planned.

Auxiliary Lt. Francis Proscia kept his seat as president, and local businessman John Imbraile beat Killen and bar owner Barry O'Donovan for the vice presidency.

Ilene Sacco beat Patricia Killen (Peter's wife, who is a Republican) for recording secretary. Sacco's eligibility to vote was questioned by both Killens.

And Pat Russo, a Conservative Party member who ran for City Council last year and lost, defeated Al Asfariadour, a Democrat, for the post of assistant secretary. Russo's membership on the council was also at issue.

But not for everyone. The day after the controversial election, Rep. Vito Fossella hailed the results. "Francis Proscia and John

Imbraile bring the right experience and leadership to their posts," he said in a statement.

"I look forward to working with them and the Council's officers and members to make our community the very best it can be."

Inspector William Aubrey, the 68th Precinct's commanding officer, insisted the process — and the council — would remain non-partisan.

"It was a fair and open process," he said. "Whenever there is opposition, some people feel slighted."

Killen and Asfariadour certainly do, charging that the race was rigged against them from the start. They discussed their concerns with famed civil-rights attorney Norman Siegel, and may contest the outcome in court, Killen told The Brooklyn Papers.

Siegel has already filed a complaint with the N.Y.P.D.

Sprint Nextel cancels cell tower plan Bows to community pressure

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Beware the fury of the Bay Ridge parent.

Last week, a telecom giant bowed to the pressure of hundreds of Bay Ridge moms and dads and scrapped its plan to erect a cellphone tower atop a building across from a parochial school at 83rd Street and Third Avenue.

"At this time, we are not pursuing the site near St. Anselm's School due to several factors," said Mark Elliott, a spokesman for Sprint Nextel. "We always take into account the input of the community."

The victory followed months of protests by residents who were furious that a cellphone tower — which the parents believe emits harmful radiation — would be erected



Residents protest cellphone towers atop building on 83rd Street and Third Avenue in November, 2005.

so close to their children.

"It was nine months of hell," said Chris Proscia, a retired police officer who helped lead the fight. His grandson goes to St. Anselm's.

"A lot of people thought we weren't going to be successful, but I felt I owed it to my grandson and the other children to do what we could."

As The Brooklyn Papers reported last year, there is little data to support the claim that low-frequency radio waves are harmful.

In fact, an American Cancer Society study determined that such waves pose no threat to human health.

But opponents say the long-term effects are still unknown, and they don't want to take any chances where their children are concerned.

"They told us there are no long-term studies to show that this is unsafe," said Proscia. "We said, 'Exactly' — just like lead paint 40 years ago."

Proscia and his retinue of concerned parents enlisted local officials, including state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) and City Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge).

"If you are a child sitting on the fourth floor of the school, this cellphone tower was so close you felt you could reach out and touch it," said Golden, riffing on the old AT&T slogan.

Bay Ridge rooftops have come to resemble a porcupine's back, quilled with an estimated 40 cellphone towers, thanks to the neighborhood's elevation, wide avenues, and proximity to water, said Golden.

Sprint Nextel would not comment about possible replacement locations for the cellphone tower, but Bay Ridge parents are content to bask in their recent victory.

"This is a milestone," said Proscia. "This is a big, big deal."

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Sharpton wants Dems to fight Yassky



Rev. Al Sharpton called on state Democratic leaders to fight David Yassky's candidacy.

By Rachel Monahan
for The Brooklyn Papers

The Rev. Al Sharpton put racial politics center-stage last weekend in the race to replace Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights).

In a frenzied weekend of activity, the irrepressible reverend first wrote to top New York Democrats demanding their support against City Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), the lone white candidate against three blacks for the rare open seat.

On the other side of the racial coin, Sharpton later urged two of the black candidates to withdraw so that the black vote against Yassky would not be split.

Sharpton said he wanted to ensure that the white candidate doesn't win the seat, which has been held by

THE FIGHTIN' ELEVENTH!

Owens and, before him, Shirley Chisholm since it was created in 1969 under the Voting Rights Act, a landmark law that sought to maximize black voting power.

On Friday, Sharpton wrote to Democratic candidate for governor Eliot Spitzer, as well as Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, accusing Yas-

sky of playing racial politics.

On Saturday, after speaking at the Black Brooklyn Empowerment Convention in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Sharpton said his letter urged the leaders to "do all within their powers" to not allow Yassky to "rob a Voting Rights district of representation."

He stopped short of demanding Yassky's withdrawal and said it was "premature" to endorse one of the three black candidates.

That could be because Sharpton is still pulling levers behind

the scenes, admitting on Sunday that he had asked the three black candidates to decide among themselves which one would stay in the race.

"I have made an appeal to the three black candidates in the race — state Sen. Carl Andrews, City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke and Chris Owens — to unite around a consensus candidate," he wrote in an op-ed in the Daily News. "I would hope that people could put their egos and personal ambitions aside for the empowerment of the people of the district."

All three candidates said they'd prefer to let the voters decide. Yassky's campaign did not respond to questions about racial politics, issuing a statement about the candidate's desire to fight for the votes throughout the district.

The 11th CD is 60 percent black. The percentage of black voters has been dropping since the seat was held by Chisholm, whose portrait will be unveiled at Borough Hall on Monday, evidence of the long shadow she casts over the race.

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New D'Town Czar surveys his territory

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

Downtown Brooklyn's new development czar — who's been reluctant to speak publicly until his appointment is made official — finally revealed himself last week at the first presentation of Mayor Bloomberg's latest development initiative, the New Partnership for Downtown Brooklyn.

As reported in The Brooklyn Papers, City Hall insider Joe Chan will direct the marketing and redevelopment of Downtown Brooklyn, the city's third-largest business district, an area city officials say they want to transform into a 24-hour, high-rise hub comparable to newly residential Lower Manhattan.

"It is time that these various efforts — and those yet to come — have one place and one person to oversee all activities," Josh Sirefman, president of the city Economic Development Corporation, said at the presentation last week.

Chan, formerly a senior advisor to Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff, will oversee an organization with an initial operating budget of \$2 million.

Chan's appointment comes nearly two years after the Downtown Brooklyn Plan became law.



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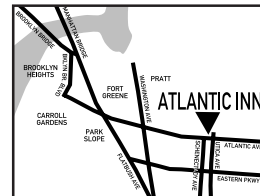
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The Brooklyn Hour (and a half)

By J.M. Rivera

This week, Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT) introduces two daily blocks of programs about Brooklyn on its cable channels. Weekdays, beginning at 12:30pm and 8:30pm, viewers can tune in to Time Warner Cable channel 56 and Cablevision channel 69 and view at least 90 minutes of programming developed by BCAT's Brooklyn Independent Television. The programs can also be viewed online at www.bcat.tv/bcat.

BCAT is operated by Brooklyn Information & Culture, Inc. (BRIC), which serves as the Borough's community access organization. The programs, produced either solely or in partnership with BCAT, were created as part of a five-year master plan prepared by BRIC entitled "Public Access TV in Brooklyn — Expanding Its Contribution to the Brooklyn Community." This master plan was intended to respond to the input of numerous Brooklyn constituencies, including the suggestions of a Community Access Strategic Planning panel chartered by Borough President Markowitz when he first took office.

"As Brooklyn's public access organization, we were given a dual mandate: to provide meaningful media access to the community, and to facilitate and develop television created with Brooklyn and its diverse populations in mind," said Leslie Schultz, BRIC's Executive Director. "Our master plan was designed to further both of these vitally important ends."

Brooklyn Independent Television already includes a number of programs that were developed in response to increasing viewer demand for Brooklyn-centric television. "We currently produce *Reporter Roundtable*, a weekly roundtable show on Brooklyn issues; *BCAT SportsTalk*, a weekly wrap-up of local sports; *Brooklyn Review*, a bi-weekly news magazine; and *Brooklyn Elected Officials*, a weekly platform for local representatives and their constituents," notes Greg Sutton, BCAT's Executive Producer. Two other monthly programs — one focusing on public health issues, the other on business — will premiere later this summer. These programs, and others, like *A Date at the Library*, which is co-produced with the Brooklyn Public Library, and *Brooklyn Cyclones LIVE*, can

be seen as part of the Brooklyn television block. Kicking off the daily block is BCAT's *Neighborhood Beat*, a series dedicated to capturing the local flavor of Brooklyn's diverse communities. Currently covering Bay Ridge, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, BoCoCa (Boorum Hill, Cobble Hill, and Carroll Gardens), and a monthly "wild card" neighborhood, the program features local residents as hosts and guests, sharing inside stories about their neighborhoods. "I'm really curious about all aspects of the city and love exploring Brooklyn," explains Kuye Harris, senior producer of the series. "I want other Brooklynites to watch the program and be inspired to explore — and experience — the rest of their borough."

In addition to the Brooklyn-centric programming produced by BCAT, all three channels feature shows contributed by Brooklyn residents. The eclectic "Brooklyn Free Speech TV" programs on the BCAT channels run the gamut from talk shows to comedy to home-grown music videos to preaching the beliefs of Brooklyn's many denominations. Many of these programs are created at the BCAT Media Center by producers trained by BCAT. Brooklyn residents can register for one of two basic television production workshops — a TV studio class and a field and editing class. Once they successfully complete the course, they can use professional television equipment to create their programs, free of charge.

To help Brooklyn community producers expand their skills, BCAT launched a new educational initiative this past January called Brooklyn Center for Media Education and Access (BCMEA), expanding the number of low-cost courses available to the Brooklyn community from two to eight classes at



Neighborhood Beat (top) leads the daily Brooklyn television block at 12:30pm and 8:30pm, which also includes such programs as *BCAT SportsTalk* and *Brooklyn Elected Officials*.

a median cost of \$30. In addition to the two basic television production workshops, new workshops include interviewing tips, sound, lighting, advanced editing, and web design. Brooklynites can also learn to become better viewers via a new media literacy class and master computer basics with a computer literacy class.

BCAT operates from a state-of-the-art facility located in the former Strand Theater in downtown Brooklyn. Programs can be seen on each of Brooklyn's two cable franchise systems: Time Warner Cable 34, 35, 56, and 57 and Cablevision 67, 68, 69, and 70, and streamed live on the internet at www.bcat.tv/bcat. Since 1993, BCAT has provided thousands of Brooklyn residents and organizations access to free channel time, low-cost television production training and free equipment usage.

To request a free BCAT Program Guide or a class schedule, email comments@bcat.tv or call 718-935-1122 x250.



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Beep Marty gets stents

Boro Prez OK after emergency heart procedure

By Ariella Cohen
and Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Markowitz is resting — albeit reluctantly — at his Park Slope apartment after two stents were inserted into his heart last week at Maimonides Medical Center. The peripatetic prez —

who has remained in constant contact with his staff ever since the stent operation last Saturday — is expected back at his Borough Hall desk next week.

"We all keep telling him he needs to rest, but he can't wait to get back here," said a Borough Hall insider. "He wants to get back to work."

Markowitz checked himself into the hospital on June 17 after feeling a dull ache in his chest. The hospital's medical staff quickly determined that Markowitz needed a stent to open up clogged coronary arteries.

Two stents were installed — a fairly common procedure nowadays — and the borough president never lost consciousness.

"It was like nothing I'd ever felt before," Markowitz told The Brooklyn Papers in an exclusive hospital-bed interview earlier this week.

"It was a dull pain. But once I got to the hospital, I knew I'd be all right."

The procedure was over before Markowitz's wife, Jamie, could even make it back to the hospital after leaving him there and returning to the couple's Park Slope home to feed their parrot.

In the interview, Markowitz admitted that some of the fault for his clogged arteries lies in his own love of Brooklyn's culinary heritage.

"I'm going to be eating fewer pastami sandwiches," he vowed. "But part of it is hereditary. My father died at 35 from a heart attack. I have to be vigilant. I tend to be heavier than I should be."

In a subsequent phone interview from his home — where he was up and about and "answering emails"



Borough President Markowitz gets weighed in during his "Lighten Up Brooklyn" fitness campaign in 2000.

Markowitz said he did not know when he'd be back at Borough Hall full time.

"Believe me, that's where I want to be, but I gotta get some rest," he said. "I'll go back when my doctors say I'm ready."

Then he turned introspective about his ordeal, but got a warning and, hopefully, I'll

heed it. I've got to make some changes."

The news broke Monday afternoon, with a statement by Markowitz's office. The statement offered scant details, but added that the surgery was successful and that Markowitz was "eating and [is] in excellent spirits."

As the news spread, Brook-

lynites poured out their sympathies for their stricken leader. Many wanted to send flowers, but were told that Markowitz's office would prefer donations to Camp Brooklyn, the borough president's pet program, which sends inner-city kids to summer camp.

But one group of worried women had to say it with flowers.

"I think I was on the phone with them for an hour" trying to persuade the group against sending them, said Markowitz spokesman Brian Vines. The women won.

At the first Markowitz-free public event at Borough Hall on Tuesday, Markowitz aide Carolyn Greer stood in for her boss, wearing the Brooklyn Cyclones jersey he would've donned to mark the team's home opener.

Markowitz also missed throwing out the first pitch at KeySpan Park later that night.

"That really hurt," he said. The timing of Markowitz's ailment couldn't be more ironic. The borough president recently kicked off his annual "Lighten Up Brooklyn" weight-loss campaign — an annual crusade that is an offshoot of his up-and-down (mostly up) battle with weight over the years.

"The messenger is flawed, but the message is a good one," he said at the campaign kick-off last month. "Brooklyn has an obesity epidemic."

Now the Beep will have to follow his own prescription: Maimonides has him on a strict, post-stent regimen that includes exercise, a balanced, postmenopausal-free diet, and stress reduction. To paraphrase one of the borough president's beloved "Leaving Brooklyn" highway signs, oh yey!

Maimonides: Heart healthy

The Brooklyn Papers

Got stent?

Doctors at Maimonides Medical Center sent Borough President Markowitz home with more than just two freshly propped-open coronary arteries — they also handed him a regimen for his new, blockage-free life.

It's a list that all Brooklynites need to take to heart. So to paraphrase David Letterman, from the home office in Borough Park, here's Maimonides Medical Center's Top 10 Ways to Beat Heart Disease:

1. **Eat a balanced diet:** It's one thing to boost your intake of fiber, fruits and vegetables, but read labels so you avoid hydrogenated oils and Frankenfruits like high-fructose corn syrup. And follow

the three B's: bake, broil or boil. Don't fry. And skip the pastami and the cheesecake. Those are once-a-month treats now.

2. **Exercise every day:** Ideally, do 30-60 minutes of moderate activity daily, but if that's not happening, get off the subway one stop early and walk the rest of the way. It'll do wonders and it's easy!

3. **Lower your blood pressure:** Don't make your heart work harder than it has to. You can reduce your blood pressure by lowering your salt intake or taking your medication.

4. **Watch your weight:** Obesity raises cholesterol and triglyceride levels, lowers your so-called "good" cholesterol and raises blood pressure.

5. **Watch your cholesterol:** "Bad" cholesterol — it's in eggs, red meat and milk products — greatly increases your chance of heart disease. Let's face it, your body already makes all the cholesterol it needs. Don't take in more than 300 mg a day.

6. **Don't smoke:** Markowitz learned that lesson years ago, so follow his lead. Smoking increases blood pressure, decreases your ability to exercise and does all the other things the Surgeon General says on the packages.

7. **Get tested:** Thin or fat, your heart may be a ticking timebomb. Go to the doctor and find out. We're all at risk.

8. **Reduce stress:** OK, you're not the borough president, so relax. Sure, you're a Master of the Universe, but you can learn to stay calm: do deep-breathing exercises, visualize fluffy ducklings or listen to calming music — whatever you choose, do it for 30 minutes a day. Have a nice cup of green tea and relax, already.

9. **Listen to your body:** Your coronary arteries may be

Boro's health is on the upswing

Borough President Markowitz notwithstanding, Brooklyn's health has improved since 2002. Last week, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released its annual report on Brooklyn's health. The news ain't half bad.

• 79.5 percent of Brooklynites had regular doctors in 2005 — that's a 5.2-percent increase from 2002.

• Only 18.5 percent of Brooklynites smoked in 2005 — down 1.2 percent from 2002.

• 52.4 percent of Brooklynites got a colonoscopy within the last 10 years, a 14.5-percent increase from just three years ago.

• HIV deaths fell from 545 in 2002 to 444 in 2004 (the latest year for which data is available).

But the news wasn't all wine and cheesecake: • Alcohol- and drug-related deaths increased from 225 in 2002 to 234 in 2004.

— Dana Rubinstein

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PARENT

It's Hepcat's day

HEPCAT HATES Father's Day and could care less about gifts and cards. He feels the same way about Mother's Day, but Smartmom has trained him to line up — along with the rest of the male population of Park Slope — at the Clay Pot to procure her Mother's Day offering.

Teen Spirit and the Oh So Feisty One figured out that the best way to celebrate Father's Day is to ignore it. OSFO did make him a breakfast feast of scrambled eggs and bacon. But she was decidedly nonchalant about the whole thing. And she did NOT make him a card.

Teen Spirit had a card for his dad, but never bothered to give it to him. So much for that Leave it to Beaver image of the kids giving dad a hand-painted ashtray or a tie clip. Smartmom always gets Hepcat a card, but she has a hell of a time finding one without golf clubs, fishing rods, baseballs, or neckties. Those images are so not Hepcat (who does, from time to time, wear a necktie — but in an ironic way).

Smartmom wonders why there are no cards that truly represent fathers like Hepcat: those who change Huggies, cook Annie's Macaroni, memorize Music for Aardvarks tapes, clean up vomit, and check their daughter's hair for lice eggs. In Park Slope, Dads are not just about barbecues and toolboxes. Yes, Hepcat knows his way around a Weber, but he's so much more, how you say?

Minutes after Teen Spirit was born, Hepcat held the tiny newborn tenderly and stared into his huge blue eyes — no pacing the waiting room or handing out cigars for him.

Once home, Hepcat taught Smartmom how to change diapers. And he was far less freaked out by the umbilical stump and the circumcision bandages than she was.

He even helped Smartmom figure out how to breastfeed: "I grew up on dairy farm," he said. "I know all about this sort of thing."

Hepcat's father, of course, never changed a diaper in his life. And Smartmom is pretty sure that her dad never did, either.

Men have come a long way, baby. In fact, Smartmom and Hepcat have turned many gender roles on their head.

After Teen Spirit was born, Hepcat worked at home, while Smartmom worked 9-5 in the city. She was the one who didn't come home until 7 pm, dy- ing to hear her boy yell, "Mommy's home!" as he ran down the hallway — already bathed and in pajamas.

Hepcat was the guy taking Teen Spirit to music classes, playdates and class trips to the Staten Island Children's Museum.

True, he didn't shop for groceries, do the dishes, make the beds, throw out the coffee filters, or clean the toilet —

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford



Well heeled: After Smartmom's recent column about buying a pair of \$600 Jimmy Choo stilettos, readers asked The Papers to print a picture of the now-famous pumps. Here is Hepcat's official portrait of Smartmom's richly sheathed hoof.

but that's for a forthcoming column about how Smartmom and Hepcat's gender roles haven't changed enough.

When OSFO came along, Hepcat and Smartmom switched roles again. Smartmom stayed home, while he worked in the city. And Hepcat was the one dying to hear his girl yell, "Daddy's home!" as she ran down the hallway — already bathed and in pajamas.

Hepcat was eventually out-sourced from the Big Corpo-

ration, and he went back to cooking scallop risotto, making conversation with the Third Street mums, and cutting OSFO's bangs.

In the process, Hepcat learned that girls need their dads as much or more than boys. Countless studies have shown how important the father-daughter relationship is when it comes to a girl's self-esteem, emotional health and well-being.

Hepcat rose to the occasion

— and now has a daughter who loves volleyball, power tools, build-a-bears, and manicures.

AS FOR TEEN SPIRIT, it's a real high-wire act being his dad. They have door slamming fights, as well as tender moments like the one at Lenox Hill Hospital all those years ago.

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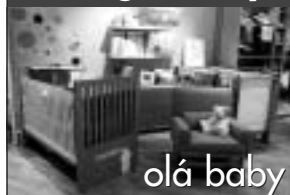
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OUR OPINION

It's official: It's no park

A PARK IS A PARK, and a project a project. As a policy, the Brooklyn Papers has, when reporting on the proposed development along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfronts, generally referred to it as a "project" or a "development," but certainly not a park.

And we've taken a lot of flack for it. State officials and backers of the plan — which they devilishly labeled Brooklyn Bridge Park — have claimed The Papers' refusal to use the term "park" in our coverage exposed a bias.

We have no bias. We're just sticking with the facts.

Faced with a lawsuit by proponents of a REAL park, Brooklyn Bridge Park officials felt compelled this week to concede the accu-

racy of The Papers' terminology. Lawyers for the Empire State Development Corporation — notice the lack of the word "park" in the agency's name — finally abandoned their use of the term "park."

In state Supreme Court in Brooklyn on Wednesday, where the ESDC is defending its plan to put luxury apartments along the waterfront, state lawyer David Paget backed up our semantics.

"The project," Paget said, "encompasses park and development."

The "project," he said. Imagine that. No longer was the state clinging to the fiction that its waterfront housing and commercial development (with some pseudo-public open space promised down the road) is a "park."

Words are powerful things, and how anything is described — be it a city's master plan for an area, a neighborhood's finding itself re-named by a real-estate agent, or a screaming headline above an otherwise well-balanced story — goes a long way toward people's understanding of it.

For us, the Empire State Development Corporation's use of the term "park" to describe this "project" has always been a way to hide the fact that the state has, from the very beginning, been intent on developing the waterfront with condominiums, restaurants, hotels and the like — all the while appeasing the public with suggestions of green space in the guise of a park.

A park that is — now, by its backers own admission — not really a park.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Curtis Herring

LETTERS

Forest City's playing the race card

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Since the beginning of the year, we've been home delivering Papers throughout Brownstone Brooklyn. Our unique system limits deliveries to two Papers per building (eliminating the kind of clutter caused by circular and menu delivery services). We hope everyone appreciates our free home delivery, but realize there are exceptions to every rule.

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor:

Thank you for Ariella Cohen's balanced cover story two weeks ago, "Yards Racial Fire," June 10. I am glad Daniel Goldstein apologized for the insensitivity of his recent remarks that were taken out of context in the press to make him look bad. He is a good man and deplores racism.

That's why I believe he is so incensed that Forest City Ratner is basically paying off ACORN and BUILD to appear non-racist. Take a walk around Ratner's Atlantic Center Mall and observe that the doors and windows are not on the Fort Greene side. That shows you how this company works.

Forest City Ratner has given ACORN money, but required it to support Atlantic Yards no matter what. If Ratner truly believed in ACORN's work he would simply have made a donation instead of buying ACORN's support.

I once worked at the African American Institute, where I learned that the worse a company is, the more it tries to hide behind donations. One of the Institute's biggest donors was Delivers Diamonds, the company that practically invented apartheid.

Daniel Goldstein is not racist. The words he used to describe the relationship between ACORN and BUILD are straight out of the mouths of Malcolm X and rapper Chuck D, so they would have been welcomed if he was a black activist. The people who Ratner now owns (by legal contract) twisted his words — all for the sake of helping a billionaire grab Brooklyn homes to

build his skyscrapers.

Goldstein apologized, but I seriously doubt whether Benita Lewis, who signed the ACORN contract with Ratner, will ever do the same. She can't. Her contract with Ratner's company forbids it.

Steve DeSeve, Downtown Brooklyn

To the editor:

In reading about Daniel Goldstein's comment in The Brooklyn Papers, I failed to detect what was racist or "racially insensitive" about his use of the term "wealthy white masters."

The press outside of Brooklyn has chosen to ignore the financial relationship that some, if not all, of Bruce Ratner's black allies have with the Atlantic Yards developer.

Yet, as your paper pointed out ("Ratner boys friends," editorial, June 10), Freddie Hamilton, a signatory to the Atlantic Yards Community Benefit Agreement, will be receiving \$550,000 from Ratner. You choose to run it as an editorial, rather than as a news item, indicating to me that even your paper gives the nod to the more inflammatory angles regarding race. To wit, Bob Law is always identified as a "former Black Panther" when, in fact, he has been a radio-show host and entrepreneur longer than he was a member of that defunct group.

Whether Goldstein was right or wrong to use the term "wealthy white masters," the point is that white wealth is calling the shots and motivating some black political officials and community leaders.

Atlantic Yards is a matrix of race and

class, with fault lines and cleavages going every which way. Yes, the area needs jobs and housing, but there are serious questions about the scale of the project and the alleged benefits. The black political class, however, has mostly shown no real leadership or vision; it can only denounce Daniel Goldstein for awkwardly stating the obvious.

Instead, today's black leadership will endorse the barely enforceable Community Benefits Agreement and declare victory — or shout racism when others have serious questions.

Norman Kelley, Prospect Heights

'Greenest' great

To the editor:

The recent vandalism on a Brooklyn block ("Mean Green," May 27) does not diminish the phenomenal and positive effects of the "Greenest Block in Brooklyn" contest — the yearly contest for Brooklyn residents committed to beautifying their blocks and making Brooklyn "green."

Now in its 12th year — and with nearly 250 participating blocks — the contest has continued to expand because it offers gardeners a shared sense of community and unmatched pride in where they live and work. More than 1,000 blocks have participated in the contest since it was launched; their hard work, creativity, and community efforts should be applauded.

Gardeners everywhere face challenges. However, it is characteristic of

Brooklyn resilience that makes the "Greenest Block" contest an enduring effort that breeds success and a stronger connection between neighbors and nature.

Sharon Myrie, Crown Heights
The writer is vice president of education at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Leave cars in park

To the editor:

A recent study by Transportation Alternatives of park usage says that more people would use Prospect Park if cars were not allowed on the drives ("Car-free hours in Prospect Park this summer," May 13). Well, I'm sure their survey did not canvass any drivers.

The restricted hours have caused massive traffic backups and added pollution to the streets surrounding the park. There are a lot of folks out there (like me) who are unable to jog, bike or Rollerblade through the park; the elderly and handicapped also enjoy the park by riding through it in a car.

Cars typically obey traffic lights and the speed limits, while bikers, bladders, skaters and bikers do not. From the wheel of my car, I can see that bikers almost never obey traffic laws.

On the rare occasion that I walk in the park, I find it difficult to cross without being hit by one of the above-mentioned speed demons.

Transportation Alternatives think it owns all the parks. But all citizens own the parks, not just one selfish group!

Barbara Sheenan, Flatbush

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 24, 2006



Wild style

Museum's 'Graffiti' pays tribute to street 'writers'

By Rebecca Migdal
for The Brooklyn Papers

View the show as a kind of time capsule," Brooklyn-born artist Daze told GO Brooklyn about the Brooklyn Museum's "Graffiti" exhibition, which opens on Friday.

Daze — aka Chris Ellis — is one of 13 artists whose large-scale paintings, all dating from the early 1980s, will represent the controversial genre in this groundbreaking exhibition that continues through Sept. 3.

The paintings were created at a transitional moment in the history of the graffiti art genre. The years from 1979-1986 marked the first flush of international notoriety for New York's "writers": a time when major European museums began showing established writers like Daze, Crash and Tracy 168, and graffiti artists turned their spray cans from painting subway walls to canvases.

The exhibition, chosen from among nearly 50 works gifted to the museum from the estate of gallery impresario Sidney Janis, is notable in that it is the first by a major New York museum to be devoted wholly to works by modern graffiti artists.

"Graffiti" boasts an honor roll of the genre's greats: NOC 167, Kel 1, Tracy 168, Crash, Bear 167 and Fab 5 Freddy all make an appearance. Nearly all are spray-painted works; some canvases, such as "Constellation of Events" by Stash and Sharp, or Phase 2's stunning untitled painting have an abstract sensibility.

Daze's "Flesh and Intrigue" (1984), displays some classic graffiti touches although it never rode the rails of the BMT. A 6-by-8-

foot canvas, the painting depicts the man-high face of a film noir diva, green as emeralds and menaced (or is it caressed?) by a sinuous pink snake. The diva's earring is highlighted by an airbrush-thin star, while blue circles trail about her collar with a characteristic spray-can flourish.

According to Daze, he never imagined that one day he'd make it big as an artist. "As a young kid...I wanted to get my name around, be respected by other artists," said Daze. "No one had any idea that people would be interested in the work outside of the immediate community. But when things did start to happen, it was important to have a good work ethic."

When the spotlight of media attention turned a handful of "writers" like Keith Haring and

ART

"Graffiti" will be on display at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights), from June 30 to Sept. 3. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students with ID, and free for children younger than 12. For more information, call (718) 638-5000 or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

Jean-Michel Basquiat into stars overnight, the graffiti scene exploded.

"I've continued to sell paintings for the past 20 years," since "Flesh and Intrigue" made its debut, he said. The mystique of graffiti's underworld origins in his work. But the vision of the city's street life Daze portrays has matured since his first strokes were sprayed on canvases: these days, glamorous stars have given way to gritty, urban landscapes.

"The work has evolved," said Daze. "My work has always been about New York, but even more so now. [It's] about New York as a city itself."

She's 'da bomb

Among graffiti's success stories, one of the most recognizable is Lady Pink, the first — and for many years only — prominent fe-



male graffiti writer. Born in Ecuador, Lady Pink began "bombing" — painting illegal murals and subway art — at the age of 15.

"I was attracted to the adventure, the rebelliousness of it," says Lady Pink, aka Sandra Fabara. "The more guys said 'you can't do it,' the more I wanted to do it. It was the risk of it, but also having fun, to be cool and popular."

For Pink, the glamorous allure of graffiti paid off quickly. In 1982, she starred in "Wild Style," Charlie Ahearn's classic film about the artform and the birth of hip-hop. Soon her paintings were commanding high prices on the international art scene.

The example of her art in the Brooklyn Museum show is not typical of her current work: "The Black Dude" (1983) recalls Lichtenstein, with a huge angry head in the foreground, dramatically rendered with graphic, comic-book-like shapes in black, red and blue. Her more recent work uses softer shading and complex intertwining forms, often addressing political subjects.

It's no surprise that Pink, who has collaborated over the years with Jenny Holzer and

Outlaw art featured in the Brooklyn Museum's "Graffiti" exhibit, which opens on June 30, is Crash's "A-U-T-O-matic" (1985), pictured above, and Lady Pink's "The Black Dude" (1983), at left.

the Guerrilla Girls, has frequently championed women's involvement in the arts.

"Times have changed, and now there's a lot of females [making graffiti]," Pink says. "They wouldn't say 'you can't do that because you're a girl' anymore. Now they'd say, 'Okay, you better keep up!'"

In her mind, there's no question that being a graffiti artist was the pathway to her success.

"It has opened a lot of doors because of the controversy. It's titillating for anybody above-ground to rub shoulders with an outlaw and see that we're tame," says Pink.

Legal battles

Although most top "writers" choose to shun illegal tactics following the onset of fame, the controversy surrounding their art continues to cut both ways. Last August, in a move reminiscent of brouhahas of the past, city officials moved to stop Marc Ecko, a graffiti-artist-turned designer, from holding a Manhattan block party because several writers, including Pink, had been invited to paint graffiti on fake '70s subway cars as a nostalgia piece.

Mayor Bloomberg put the kibosh on the plan, arguing that it was an encouragement to youth to commit vandalism, but a court ruling citing the First Amendment restored Ecko's permit. Ecko has since brought a federal suit against Bloomberg, the city, and Queens Councilman Peter Vallone, Jr.

In 2005, Vallone penned an anti-graffiti law that made it illegal to sell spray-paint, certain markers or etching acid to anyone under age 21, or for minors to possess these items. Ecko and seven artists ages 18 to 20, have challenged the constitutionality of the law.

For Pink, the "Graffiti" show at the Brooklyn Museum is a long overdue legitimization by the local art establishment of an art genre that was recognized as important by European museums 25 years ago. She sees points mural commissions, but she hasn't done any "bombing" in years.

"You make choices in your life. You get too old to outrun the cops; you have to face it," said Pink with a chuckle. "If you can keep working at what you love, that's the best thing of all."

DANCE

The big 3-0

The 30th anniversary celebration of the Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center kicks off at 7 pm on Thursday in Long Island University's Kumble Theater.

Highlights of the program include the presentation of a lifetime achievement award to dancer-educator Carmen de Lavallade as well as performances by Dudley Williams (pictured), Marlies Yearby, Nia Love and more.

De Lavallade danced with the Lester Horton Dance Theater, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Company and The Metropolitan Opera before joining the faculty of the Yale School of Drama. The multi-talented artist has also performed off-Broadway and in the films "Carmen Jones" (1955) and "Odds Against Tomorrow" with Harry Belafonte (1959).

"The Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center's 30th Anniversary Celebration" will take place June 29 at 7 pm at the Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts on the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University (Flatbush Avenue Extension at DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn). Tickets are \$15, \$13 seniors and students. For tickets and more information, call the box office at (718) 488-1624 or visit the Web site www.thelmahill.com.

— Lisa J. Curtis

DANCE

Savior Savion

Tap-dancing phenom Savion Glover will give a free performance, as part of the Celebrate Brooklyn series in Prospect Park, on Saturday.

The Tony Award-winning choreographer ("Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk") will be joined by his jazz band The Otherz. Jazz pianist Robert Glasper will open the show at 7:30 pm.

Savion Glover and The Otherz will perform at Celebrate Brooklyn on June 24 at 7:30 pm at the Prospect Park Band Shell (Ninth Street at Prospect Park West in Park Slope). A \$3 donation is suggested. For more information, call (718) 855-7882, ext. 45 or visit the Web site at www.celebratebrooklyn.org. Rain or shine.

— LIC

EXHIBIT

Power of Moses

The Triborough Bridge is turning 70 years old, and as a birthday present, it's getting its own exhibit at the New York Transit Museum in Downtown Brooklyn.

Museum curator Robert Del Bagno worked on the exhibit for a year with Laura Rosen of the Department of Bridges and Tunnels' Museum to put together the history of the bridge from its original design plan in 1904 to what your car is driving over today. The exhibit studies the bridge from an architectural and engineering perspective.

"The Triborough Bridge was really the plan that pulled all of the different highways together," Del Bagno said. "It created the system of highways that were being built as separate pieces, and joined them together. For the first time, people were able to drive their cars fast from place to place, which you couldn't do on city streets. It was the beginning of the age of the automobile."

Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens were joined together by the three bridges, which is considered one of the greatest, most complex architectural achievements to come out of the Depression era.

Also featured in the exhibit is information on Robert Moses. The Triborough Bridge was the first of Moses' seven bridges, which "solidified his power base, and served as a model for all of the bridges in New York to come afterwards," Del Bagno said.

"The Triborough Bridge: Robert Moses and the Automobile Age" opens on June 27 at The New York Transit Museum, at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street in Downtown Brooklyn. The museum is open Tuesday-Friday, from 10 am-4pm, and weekends, from noon-5 pm. Closed Mondays. Admission is \$5, \$3 for seniors and children ages 17 and younger. For more information, call (718) 694-1600 or visit www.mta-nytc.org/nytm/museum.

— Jovana Rizzo



Within reach: In his new Soapbox Gallery in Prospect Heights, Jimmy Greenfield's sculptures can be seen from Dean Street.

Outspoken art

Soapbox Gallery opens in Ratner's shadow Friday

By Rebecca Migdal
for The Brooklyn Papers

Where the female's torso would be, there is a zigzag cutout, reminiscent of a puzzle piece, or maybe half a bear trap. The claw-like shape rests on curvaceous legs, twisted in a half crouch and flexing a naked derriere. Beneath the imposing posterior lies another cutout: the smaller, missing half of the puzzle/trap, from which a male hand reaches upward, yearning to-

ward the towering bronze buttocks above.

A group of local women chuckle and joke with one another as they walk past Soapbox Gallery's storefront-style display window at dusk. The shopping-bag-toting ladies seem more amused than shocked by the whimsical sculpture illuminated within.

"I see an ass!" said one of the women with gusto.

Sculptor and gallery-owner Jimmy Greenfield was pleased. "It looks like we're getting a reaction," he said. "That's great!"

See SOAPBOX on page 11

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: PARK SLOPE'S FIFTH AVENUE

Bierkraft

191 Fifth Ave. at Union Street, (718) 230-7600 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa).

Walk into this gourmet shop and you'll be surrounded by more than 650 kinds of beer. As members of the American Cheese Society, Bierkraft's owners are also very particular about the 250 cheeses they stock, most made by small producers. The selection of fresh breads, chocolates from around the world and gourmet prepared foods make spectacular gift baskets. Free beer and cheese tastings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Open daily.

The ChipShop

383 Fifth Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 832-7701, www.chipshopnyc.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$7-\$12. *

Owners Suzanne Hackett, Vicki and Christopher Sell have a real winner with this Park Slope version of an English staple. The ChipShop serves all the British classics: fish and chips, bangers and mash, shepherd's pie, and more. Desserts include fruit cobbles, apple-blackberry and rhubarb, both served with nuts and custard and deep-fried candy bars. Warm weather fare includes chicken-finger salad and poached salmon salad, and macaroni-and-cheese for the kids. ChipShop has 16 sidewalk cafe seats available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

The Brooklyn Heights location at 129 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street, (718) 855-7723, accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa.

The Chocolate Room

86 Fifth Ave. at St. Marks Place, (718) 783-2900, www.thechocolateroombrooklyn.com (MC, Visa)

Desserts: \$5-\$13, chocolates: \$40 per pound. *

Husband-and-wife team Jon Payson and Naomi Joseph operate this chocolate boutique and dessert emporium, which opened in January 2005. The Chocolate Room offers a variety of decadent treats, including cupcakes, cookies and brownies. Pastry chefs Jennifer Jupiter and Margaret Hastings serve up molten chocolate cake flavored with cinnamon, cloves and ancho chile, and warm brownie sandwiches with homemade ice cream, fudge and whip cream. Summer specialties include a chocolate-strawberry shortcake and a milk chocolate hazelnut "semifreddo" with caramelized bananas. A favorite remains the chocolate fondue for two with fresh fruit, pound cake and homemade marshmallows. Chocolates by Fritz Kopschelt, Bonnat, from France, and Manhattan's Chocolat Moderne are sold by the pound. Or try one of the chocolate bars, including those by Michel Cluzel at Plantation Bar, which offers a non-dairy yogurt-like treat. The extra-sweet tea, beer and wine list is "chocolate-friendly" to complement the dessert menu, including port, Banyuls wine, and of course Brooklyn Brewery's chocolate stout. Open Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays.

The CurryShop

383 Fifth Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 832-7701, www.curryshopnyc.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$8-\$12. *

Owners Suzanne Hackett, Vicki and Christopher Sell have made The CurryShop, adjacent to its sister restaurant, ChipShop, the home for the British interpretations of Indian cuisine. Christopher Sell's rich Mulligatawny soup is worthy of Seinfeld. "Soup Nae" praline, so thick and aromatic you might mistake it for long-simmered rice and lentils for ground lamb. Entrees consist of curries by design: pick a sauce and pair it with your choice of five savory offerings. For dessert, try the heart-stopping spiced apple and deep-fried Soudanese bar. Open daily for lunch at noon, and Curry dinner starting at 5 p.m. Weekend brunch offered from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sidewalk cafe dining available.

Delices de Paris

321 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue, (718) 788-5666 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Pastries: \$1.95-\$3.59, cakes: \$18.99 and up.

Co-owned by Rosana Rosa, this cheerful bakery sells more than fine international pastries. Delices de Paris offers a wide assortment of cakes (including wedding cakes), breads, pies, tarts, crepes, breakfast items, coffee, hors d'oeuvres, salads, sandwiches and more.

★ = Full review available at BrooklynPapers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Discover's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

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Greek to me

Bay Ridge's version of Agnanti Meze serves up a variety of small dishes in taverna setting

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

"Just like Greece," said my friend as we were led to our table at Agnanti Meze in Bay Ridge. He was stating the obvious. It was as steamy as August in Athens in the dining room, with only ceiling fans making a lazy whir above us, we stayed hot most of the night.

Open since December, Agnanti Meze is a spin-off of the popular restaurant of the same name in Astoria, Queens. Spiros Sidorakis and his partner, Maria Lambriandis, cloned the formula of their first venture: Offer more than spinach pie and souvlaki, and serve it in a room that channels a mom and pop taverna.

Agnanti Meze (Greek for "gazing from afar") on the long side and painted pink, which lightens the feeling of the rectangular space.

Windows open onto the street; the floors are tiled; and on a brick wall is a display of black-and-white photos of Athenians and shelves of taverna-style tchotchkes. The only missing details are waves breaking at the door.

Elent Karabela is the chef. Her menu is heavy on meze, the small plates of Greek d'oeuvres that make up many a Greek and Turkish meal. There are hot and cold appetizers, Greek cheeses and a section called "Tastes of Constantinople," with hot and cold plates. Entrees are heavy on grilled fish, as well as braised meat dishes.

Highlights of my meal included the opening batch of warm, chewy, olive oil-smeared bread, and the finale, when a plate of tangy sheep's milk yogurt was topped with grapes served in sugar syrup and garnished with "halvah polikiko," a warm spoon-bread made with molasses soaked in an orange syrup. Both are offered gratis to diners.

The "kalitsoumia," a mix of sautéed shiitake, portobello and button mushrooms enclosed in a crisp half-moons of pastry, makes a fine beginning to the meal. They're served with feta cheese blended with jalapeno peppers into a creamy dip that's pungent but doesn't overpower the filling. Little, quickly fried croquettes of zucchini mixed with feta, dill and mint, called "kolokythokeftedes," were creamy and clean tasting. They called for a touch of something acidic, so a few slices of lemon should be served with the dish.

I ordered the "titikos" because a table of 25 rowdy diners was digging into several dishes of the appetizer, only to find it unbearably dull. The mom and pop

Greek version of "panzanella," the Italian bread salad, is served in a tall mound of dried dark bread, tomatoes, feta cheese and olives.

To moisten the bread, the leaning tower of wheat is drenched with too much vinaigrette, leaving it soggy. The dressing was uninteresting and the tomatoes employed were under-ripe.

I wasn't wowed by the "bourek" either. While the pastry was crisp and nicely scented with cinnamon, the ground chicken filling was under-seasoned.

We fared better with the "shrimp gyozeviti," in which those tender, large crustaceans were baked in an oval dish with tomatoes and feta. The shrimp were fresh and sweet, and the cheese added tang to the sweet, pulpy tomatoes.

Two of the entrees we tried — a rustic grilled striped bass and a rustic lamb stew — were outstanding. The other, a Greek version of stuffed cabbage called "lahanodolmades," was undeniably dreary.

Karabela understands that a fresh fish, especially one like striped bass



Big-flavored shrimp: At Agnanti Meze Restaurant in Bay Ridge, chef Elent Karabela serves up shrimp, rolled in a finely shredded pastry, with a housemade mustard sauce.

with its subtle, sweet flesh, is best served simply. She drizzles a whole fish with olive oil and a sprinkling of oregano before crisping it on the grill. Its skin arrives herby and crunchy while the flesh is moist and smoky. We swiped pieces of the fish through a ring of lemon-flavored olive oil on the plate until the entire serving was gone.

Equally good was the lamb stew. Chunks of the meat are slow-cooked in a rich tomato sauce until the meat sloughs off the bone. While the dish simmers, the tomatoes and chunks of zucchini absorb the deep meatiness of the lamb. It's a heavy entree for a warm evening, but it's exactly the dish for weary souls on a cold night.

I'd say again that the "lahanodol-

mathes," regardless of the weather. The cabbage is swapped for romaine lettuce, which isn't terrible; the weakly seasoned ground beef and rice filling is. So, too, is an insipid lemony sauce, so thick you could stand a spoon in it.

All the entrees were served with tender stewed artichoke hearts and potatoes in a tasty, lemon-brightened sauce. However, peak and little squares of carrots mixed into the sauce gave the dish the look of diner fare.

It's funny that with "small plate" restaurants being the rage right now, Greek food still flies low on diners' radar. Agnanti Meze is relatively new and trying hard to please, but until the kitchen crew can deliver consistently good meze, it won't be the go-to place for this cuisine.

Nostalgic calories

Bikini weather already? Well, Bay Ridge's Little Cupcake Bakeshop will make you forget all about that summer diet.

As you enter the shop, reminiscent of your Grandma's kitchen with '40s swing music playing in the background, you see a multitude of tasty treats displayed on retro cake plates, including at least 10 types of cupcakes, personal cheesecakes, peanut butter blondies and banana pudding.

"Our focus is a throwback to traditional American desserts from the '40s and '50s," said Mark Libertini, who co-owns the bakeshop with Luigi Lobuglio. "We have simple American desserts. Don't come in looking for the tiramisu or cannolis you can find in every other bakery."

The "Golden" cupcake is a customer favorite, says Libertini. It's your classic vanilla cake topped with vanilla or chocolate buttercream frosting. While the cupcakes, at \$1.50 each, are the most popular dessert in the bakeshop, a variety of cakes, cookies and puddings are also designed to make your mouth water.

And when you're on your way to work, the bakeshop also offers convenient croissants or muffins and to-go cups of Italian roasted "illy" coffee.

Personalized cakes and cupcakes can be created for special occasions.

Everything in the bakeshop is made daily from scratch at the bakeshop, "Just like your Mother or Grandma would have made it," Libertini said. "People want desserts that taste great and are made from [organic, preservative-free] ingredients. We use whole butter, and fresh milk and dairy."

The bakeshop, which opened in July 2005, offers indoor seating, and Libertini and Lobuglio plan to open an outdoor cafe with water service beginning June 30.

The Little Cupcake Bakeshop (9102 Third Ave. at 91st Street in Bay Ridge) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Cupcakes: \$1.50. The bakeshop is open Monday through Wednesdays, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Thursdays through Fridays, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sundays, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., with extended summer hours. Neighborhood delivery available. For more information, call (718) 680-4465 or visit the Web site at www.littlecupcakebakeshop.com.

— Jovana Rizzo

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Sundays: Stephanie Weinreb, 9 pm, \$8 suggested donation; Wednesdays: Night of the Roasted Lamb, 9 pm, \$8; June 24: Salsiccia Party, 9 pm, \$10; June 25: The Cat Corbett, 9 pm, \$8 suggested donation.

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BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara V. Curran

Amarachi Lounge

325 Franklin Ave. at Clifton Place in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (646) 441-4510, www.amarachilounge.com

Sundays: Open Mic Artist Showcase, 8 pm, \$5; Wednesdays: Laugh Out Loud Wednesday, 8 pm; Thursdays: Full-on Wednesday, 8 pm; Fridays: Full-on Wednesday, 8 pm; Saturdays: Full-on Wednesday, 8 pm; Sundays: Full-on Wednesday, 8 pm.

Anyways Cafe

1602 Cravenwood Neck Road at East 160th Street in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 934-5988, www.anywayscafe.com

Tuesdays: Jazz funk with Karin Okada and guests, 9 pm, FREE.

The Backroom

(Inside Freddy's Bar) 485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035, www.freddysbackroom.com

June 24: The Zambora and Friends, 9:30 pm, FREE; June 25: Music from the NY Underground featuring EwanZurmo and Ken Filiano, 9:30 pm, \$5 suggested donation; June 26: Spelling Bee, 8 pm, FREE; June 29: Unbelievable Luck and Friends, 9 pm, FREE; June 30: Kamikaze Harris, 9:30 pm, Royal Free, 10:30 pm, The Wilder Family, 11:30 pm, FREE.

Bar 4

444 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9800

June 25: Gerald Clavier Band, 8 pm, 10 pm, \$5 (includes both sets).

Barbes

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 865-9172
www.barbesbrooklyn.com

Sundays: Stephanie Weinreb, 9 pm, \$8 suggested donation; Wednesdays: Night of the Roasted Lamb, 9 pm, \$8; June 24: Salsiccia Party, 9 pm, \$10; June 25: The Cat Corbett, 9 pm, \$8 suggested donation.

Bobby's Brooklyn Pie Company

1 Main St. at Plymouth Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-0663, www.bobbys.com

June 25: American Abolition, 8 pm, \$5; June 27: Hop Along, Queen Annals (with Whistle Matchmaker), 8 pm, \$5; June 29: Ezra Furman, 8 pm, \$5.

Cafe Steinhof

422 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope, (718) 349-7705, www.cafesteinhof.com

June 26: Steve Korman and his Mad Jazz Horns, 10:30 pm, FREE.

Cattyshack

249 Fourth Ave. at Carroll Street in Park Slope, (718) 233-5400, www.cattyshacknyc.com

Sundays: Matt Fink 6/27 with Dab Slach, Fanci, Kim Ann, Daryl Raymond and BK Brewster with Steve Korman, \$5, 10 pm, \$5; Mondays: Cattyshack Cinema, 9 pm, \$5; Tuesdays: Open mic night hosted by Athena Reich, 9 pm, \$5; Wednesdays: Downstairs, 9 pm, \$5; Thursdays: Open mic night hosted by Athena Reich, 9 pm, \$5; Fridays: Open mic night hosted by Athena Reich, 9 pm, \$5; Saturdays: Open mic night hosted by Athena Reich, 9 pm, \$5.

Dragon Lounge

145 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-7658, www.dragonlounge.com

Mondays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Tuesdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Wednesdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Thursdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Fridays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Saturdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5.

Europa Night Club

99 MacDougal Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5723, www.europalounge.com

Sundays: V/P Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE; Mondays: V/P Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: V/P Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: V/P Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE; Thursdays: V/P Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE; Fridays: V/P Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE; Saturdays: V/P Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE.

Center for Improvisational Music

295 Douglas St. at Third Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 473-5882, www.schoolforimprov.com

June 24: Mark Towner/Celli/Barak, 8 pm, \$12; June 29: Shane Endley hosts an open jam session, 8 pm, \$7; June 30: Mariana Roberts, 8 pm, \$10.

Club Exit

147 Greenpoint Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 349-4899, www.club-exit.com

Sundays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15; Mondays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15; Tuesdays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15; Wednesdays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15; Thursdays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15; Fridays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15; Saturdays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15.

Cornerstone Pub

152 Cortelyou Rd. at Manhattan Road in Flatbush, (718) 940-0037, www.cornerstonepub.com

Mondays: Happy Hour with The Rachel Eshkol, 7 pm, 9 pm, FREE (donation suggested); Tuesdays: Dan Post Quartet, 9 pm, FREE (donation suggested); Thursdays: The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE; June 24: Stephanie Weinreb's Hot Club of New York, 9 pm, FREE.

Crossroads Cafe

1421 Prospect Ave. at River Place in Windsor Terrace, (718) 972-1852, www.crossroadscafe.com

June 25: Donorinon, 7 pm, FREE; June 26: Justin Wood, 7 pm, FREE.

Crossroads Saloon

2079 Conny Island Ave. at Kings Highway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 239-9591, www.crossroadssaloon.com

Sundays and Fridays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

Dragon Lounge

145 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-7658, www.dragonlounge.com

Mondays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Tuesdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Wednesdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Thursdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Fridays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5; Saturdays: Live music, 9 pm, \$5.

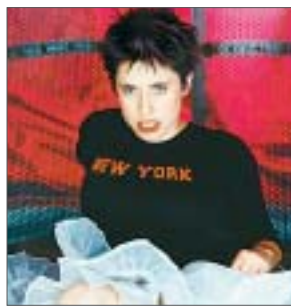
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Galapagos

2014 South St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosnyc.com



Athena Reich hosts an open mic night at Cattyshack on Mondays.

Five Spot

459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0202, www.fivespotnyc.com

Hank's Saloon

46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 882-8003, www.hanksaloon.com

Sundays: Shogun Shaw, 6 pm, Sean Karate, 7 pm, New Jack Rabbit, 8 pm, FREE; June 24: Brooklyn Metal Fest featuring The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE; June 25: The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE; June 26: The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE; June 27: The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE; June 28: The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE; June 29: The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE; June 30: The Looseness, 11 pm, FREE.

Hope and Anchor

347 Van Brunt St. at Wolcott Street in Red Hook, (718) 237-0276, www.hopeandanchor.com

Kill Bar-Cafe

21 Hope St. at Sans Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-5574, www.killbar-cafe.com

Laila Lounge

110 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 484-6791, www.lailalounge.com

Liberty Heights Taproom

34 Van Dyke St. at Duane Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-4650, www.libertyheightstaproom.com

June 25: Don't Turn, 9 pm, Live Room, 6 pm, Kicker Buds (K. Sandoz), 7 pm, \$10; June 26: Don't Turn, 9 pm, Live Room, 6 pm, Kicker Buds (K. Sandoz), 7 pm, \$10.

The Lucky Cat

245 Grand St. at Roasting Street in Williamsburg, (718) 762-4437, www.theluckycat.com

Mondays: Joe McGin's Pines Parlor and keyboard karoke, 11 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: Joe McGin's Pines Parlor and keyboard karoke, 11 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Joe McGin's Pines Parlor and keyboard karoke, 11 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Joe McGin's Pines Parlor and keyboard karoke, 11 pm, FREE; Fridays: Joe McGin's Pines Parlor and keyboard karoke, 11 pm, FREE; Saturdays: Joe McGin's Pines Parlor and keyboard karoke, 11 pm, FREE; Sundays: Joe McGin's Pines Parlor and keyboard karoke, 11 pm, FREE.

Magnolia

488 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope, (718) 389-6874, www.magnoliabrooklyn.com

Meit

440 Bergen St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 230-5925, www.meitnyc.com

Michelle's

1124 Broadway at Kosciuszko Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-0400, www.michellesnyc.com

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230 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 799-2161, www.nightanddayrestaurant.com

Union Pool

444 Union Ave. at Mosley Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609-0484, www.unionpool.com

Waterfront Ale House

155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-3794, www.waterfrontalehouse.com

Zebulon

218 Wythe Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9554, www.zebulonbar.com

Two Boots Brooklyn

514 Second St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 499-3223, www.twobootsbrooklyn.com

Trash Bar

256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000, www.trashbar.com

Tea Lounge

837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 778-2762, www.tealounge.com

Stain

766 Grand St. at Humboldt Street in Williamsburg, (718) 387-8888, www.stainbar.com

Reign

46 Washington Ave. at Flushing Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 463-7344, www.reignnyc.com

Southpaw

125 Fifth Ave. at St. John's Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236, www.southpaw.com

Ray's Comedy Club

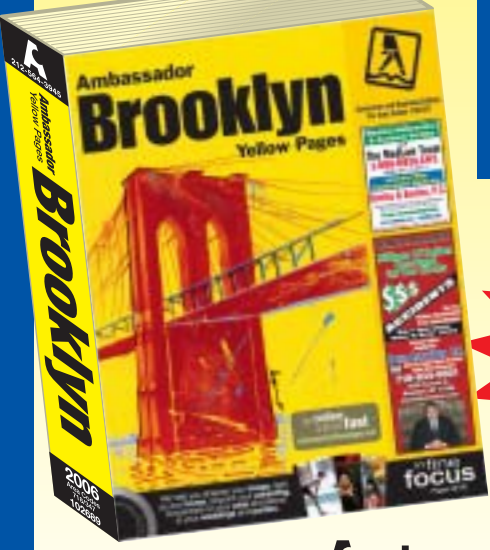
9007 Third Ave. at Marine Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-4400, www.rayscomedyclub.com

June 24: Stacy Varrell, Comedy Central's Rodney Dangerfield, 8 pm, \$10; June 25: Stacy Varrell, Comedy Central's Rodney Dangerfield, 8 pm, \$10; June 26: Stacy Varrell, Comedy Central's Rodney Dangerfield, 8 pm, \$10; June 27: Stacy Varrell, Comedy Central's Rodney Dangerfield, 8 pm, \$10; June 28: Stacy Varrell, Comedy Central's Rodney Dangerfield, 8 pm, \$10; June 29: Stacy Varrell, Comedy Central's Rodney Dangerfield, 8 pm, \$10; June 30: Stacy Varrell, Comedy Central's Rodney Dangerfield, 8 pm, \$10.

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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Who says nice guys finish last?



New Cyclones manager George Greer has won titles in numerous professional leagues.

A MAXIM CREDITED TO LEO DUROCHER, former manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is "Nice guys finish last."

Durocher was referring to the rival New York Giants, and although he actually meant, "They're nice guys, but they'll finish last," the famous remark is still interpreted to mean that being personable causes failure.

If this is so, the Cyclones are in big trouble: new Brooklyn skipper, George Greer, is indeed a nice guy. Fortunately for fans of the Brooks, he's also talented, and his coaching ability draws raves.

The 59-year-old Greer, from Westerly, Rhode Island, played college baseball at the University of Connecticut, where he was a two-time All-American outfielder. He captained the United States team in the 1967 Pan American Games and singled in the winning run against Cuba to give the U.S. the gold medal.

After college, he played professionally for four years in the St. Louis Cardinals' organization, reaching Triple-A Tulsa, where he hit .316.

After his playing career, he initiated the college baseball program at University of Connecticut-Avery Point, and won nine titles in nine years. That's not merely good, that's crazy good.

He was later the head coach at Davidson, and then spent 17 years as the head coach at Wake Forest. While coaching the Demon Deacons, Greer won three Atlantic Coast Conference championships and produced 29 All-Americans.

In the summers, Greer coached the Cape Codders in the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League, and some of the now former major leaguers who played for him included Ron Darling, John Franco, Greg Vaughn, and Will Clark. Greer continued his winning ways, piloting Conit to three league titles.

He's won championships. Lots of them. So how could he be a nice guy?

"Coach Greer was a really good hitter himself," said David Bush, who started as a catcher at Wake Forest. "He realized that I wouldn't hit enough to make it on the professional level. So he converted me to pitching."

"I really had hardly pitched before, even as a kid, so he didn't rush me. Just let me gradually learn how to pitch."

It worked, as Bush is now pitching for the Milwaukee Brewers.

"He [Greer] emphasizes doing things the right way, not having a fear of doing things the wrong way," said Bush. "He lets players play, and he's not always yelling at you. He got me to the major leagues."

A NOTHER FORMER DEACON DEMON explained Greer's influence. "He's an ideal players' coach," said Mike Holmes, a scout for the Oakland A's.

"Basically, he had just three rules: Be on time, play hard, and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, your family or your teammates."

"He doesn't like to tinker with players at first, so he waits to make a change after he's evaluated you. He doesn't miss much, and he's watching you even when you think he isn't."

Holmes said Greer's greatest influence came off the playing field.

"I was a young player in the minor leagues at Visalia, in California. I found out that my father had cancer. I couldn't leave the team to go home. Well, Coach Greer called me every few days, week after week, helping me handle the situation. I've never forgotten that."

The Cape Cod League also felt Greer's influence. John Schiffer has known Greer since 1978 when Greer was coaching the Hyannis Mets and Schiffer was with the Chatham A's.

"George Greer is one of the nicest people you could ever meet," said Schiffer. "Now, on the baseball field, he's all business. And don't get him mad. But off the field, here's how nice he is: George loves animals, and when he comes to visit, he even brings dog biscuits for my dog and catnip for my cat."

Can he even be nice after a record-setting, 18-0 loss in the season opener? Judging from what people tell me, Greer isn't going to overreact to that one game if his players keep hustling. He's going to give his players time, as he's done his whole career.

"Brooklyn struck gold when they got George Greer," said Paul Galop, president of the Cape Cod League. "The fans are going to fall in love with him."

Nice guys finish last?

No way.

Ed Shakespeare has covered the Cyclones since their inception in 2001. His book about that first season, "When Baseball Returned to Brooklyn," is available at Amazon.com. Along with Gersh Kuntzman and Vince DiMiceli, Shakespeare rounds out The Brooklyn Papers' "Triple Threat Coverage" of the Cyclones 2006 season.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

Far East eats are far out

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Buy me some peanuts and...Chinese dumplings? Hungry baseball fans at the Cyclones' season opener Tuesday at Keyspan Park were surprised to find that Chef One chicken teriyaki dumplings had joined hot dogs, peanuts, Cracker Jack and beer at concession stands.

The peppy poststickers are the result of a just-inked three-year deal between the East Williamsburg dumpling maker and the Cyclones.

"This creative partnership is in the true spirit of minor-league baseball," said Cyclone General Manager Steve Cohen.

Two Cyclone players — pitcher Tim Haines and outfielder Mike Sharpe — were pressed into duty to sample the dumplings for the cameras the other day. Both were impressed.

Haines, the pride of dumpling-free Mission, Texas,



pronounced them "good," while Sharpe, who is from Long Island, expounded on the benefits of serving dumplings at the 'ol' ball game.

"Hot dogs and beer are old school," he said. "This is new. People are going to like it. After all, one billion Chinese people can't be wrong."

Even at \$5 for four dumplings, the new wondrous were selling like hotcakes, according to concession stand workers.

That didn't surprise Emmett Pickett, a Chef One spokesman: "The idea is to make dumplings the new hot dog."



Cyclones players Mike Sharpe and Tim Haines enjoy new Chef One dumplings, now available at Keyspan Park.



Strike one!

Sandy, first pitch traverse borrough

The Brooklyn Papers

To paraphrase Eugene O'Neill, it was a long pitch's journey into night.

The Cyclones kicked off their sixth season with a gimmick so gimmicky that it actually worked — as a gimmick.

Beginning with a ceremony at Borough Hall featuring Keyspan Chairman and CEO Bob Catell, and ending with Sandy the Seagull's arrival at Keyspan Park atop a convertible four hours later, the team conducted what it billed as the "longest first pitch ever."

The ceremonial, 30-inch baseball took a circuitous route around Brooklyn, hitting Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights, traversing Atlantic Avenue, passing by the P.C. Richards at Flatbush Avenue, surviving Grand Army Plaza, drawing weird glances in Park Slope, cruising by Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park (where Borough President Markowitz received his two cardiac stents days earlier), making its way through Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst, swinging through Gerritsen Beach and Gravesend, and finally making its way down Surf Avenue to the friendly confines of Keyspan Park.

In all, the first pitch traveled 24 miles from the seat of borough government to its field of dreams. Not everyone was in the spirit.

"Sandy the Seagull almost freakin' ran me over in Grand Army Plaza," one motorist told The Brooklyn Papers.

For the record: Sandy was not driving. — Kuntzman



Sandy the Seagull and sidekick Pee-Wee at Borough Hall with the Cyclones first pitch of the season.

Wood you believe?

The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclones manager George Greer and hitting coach Scott Hunter are both high on outfielder Dustin Martin, a personable 22-year-old lefty out of Burnet, Texas.

Now he just has to figure out how to swing his bat.

Making the adjustment from aluminum bats to the lumber of professional baseball is always a learning process for minor-leaguers. But for the free-swinging Martin, it could take a while.

"He has a bit of the aluminum bat thing in him," Hunter said. "We are trying to get him to not swing so hard because a wood bat has a smaller sweet spot."

Martin said he's learning.

"It's a totally different swing," he said. "With

aluminum, you can just let fly and get away with it. With a wood bat, you have to learn not to muscle it."

In Tuesday's home opener, Martin hit the ball hard several times — and learned something else about wood bats: they break.

He shattered one piece of pine on a broken-but single in the first.

— Kuntzman

Welcome to Brooklyn

Heard on the main level at Tuesday night's home opener: A man hawking subscriptions for the Daily News promised all new subscribers a pair of tickets to an upcoming "New York Mets or New York Cyclones game."

New York Cyclones?

And to think, they call themselves "New York's Hometown Paper."

— Kuntzman

OPENER...

Continued from page 1

was in the bottom of the third, when the Clones were able to load the bases. With the Brooklins already down 13-0, designated hitter Jeremy Hambrice blasted a ball toward the warning track in center field which, despite an unusual heavy wind blowing out, died in the glove of the fast-moving Wilkens DeLaRosa.

But the crowd really started heading for the exits after the Clones stranded two more runners in the fourth (they left 13 on the night) thanks to a bases-loaded round-the-horn double play.

And just in time. In the top of the fifth, with runners at first and second and Larsen again chomping at the bit in the on-deck circle, Cyclones hurler Eric Donaghe threw an inside fastball that nailed home plate umpire Jeremy

Crowe, resulting in an excruciating 26-minute delay as Crowe was checked out by team doctors. When it was determined that he couldn't continue, Staten Islander and Cyclones employee Freddie Dejeux, the emergency back up for the night, sprung into action, taking the field umpiring position for the remainder of the game.

The Yankees scored at least one run in the first seven innings before Clones reliever Nick Abel was able to shut them down for the final two innings of play.

"We made some good pitches early, but then we didn't finish the batters off," said first-year Cyclones manager George Greer. "We left the ball up, and if you leave the ball up — whatever level you're playing — you're going to get hurt. And we got

hurt with pitches up in the zone."

The Cyclones last hope of scoring even one run was dashed in the bottom of the ninth when, after a leadoff walk to Tim Grogan, Jesus Gamero smashed a ball toward the hole between shortstop Mitch Hilligoss and second base. Hilligoss speared the ball with a dive, and fired to Larsen, who caught Grogan off first. Dustin Martin then struck out to end the game.

Cyclones starter Jorge Reyes was tagged with the loss after giving up seven runs (six earned) in just 1.1 innings of work.

Jonathan Castillo then got battered for seven runs (four earned) in 2.2 innings, and Donaghe was slapped around for four runs (three earned) in 2.1 innings.

To add insult to injury, the Clones dropped Game 2 on Staten Island on Wednesday night — blowing a five-run lead in the eighth inning before finally losing 8-7.



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Fri., June 30 vs. Aberdeen IronBirds @ 7PM - **Cyclones Caps** presented by HSBC

Sat., July 1 vs. Aberdeen IronBirds @ 6PM - **Boy Scout Night** presented by Tent & Trail

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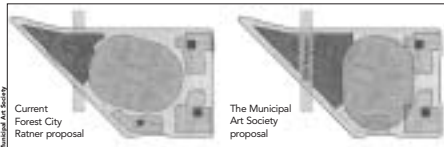
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Atlantic Yards 'doesn't work' Municipal Art rejects plan



Municipal Art Society planners said that the Atlantic Yards project would better "respect" existing neighborhoods if the area were shifted slightly east (above, right), thus allowing Fifth Avenue to remain. The "Miss Brooklyn" tower would be just west of the arena.

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

One of the city's most-respected urban planning organizations weighed in on Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards last week, saying it simply "does not work" for Brooklyn.

Municipal Art Society President Kent Barwick offered that assessment before a packed house of 500 people at the Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church on June 15—a mildly stinging rejection of Ratner's 17-scraper, 8.7-million-square-foot arena and commercial development in low-rise Prospect Heights.

"I know the headline writers want something stronger, but we've reached the conclusion that [Atlantic Yards] does not work," Barwick said. "That doesn't mean that it could not work, but as currently designed, it does not."

Barwick said the Society assessed Atlantic Yards using five "design criteria": does it "respect the existing neighborhoods"; does it "eliminate streets"; does it "create a real public park"; does it "promote lively streets"; and does it "choke" traffic.

By those criteria, Atlantic Yards earned a score of 1 out of 5, according to architect and planner John West, who gave the Society's PowerPoint presentation.

Some community members complained that by evaluating Atlantic Yards at all, the Society was hoping to tailor it rather than kill it outright. But West's presentation began ominously—showing that Atlantic Yards' 8.7 million square feet is the equivalent of "three Empire State Buildings, 23 Williamsburgh Savings Bank buildings, or 2,200 brownstones—which is roughly the entire population of Prospect Heights."

There was an audible gasp when he made the comparison.

West said the first step towards "respecting the neighborhoods" would be for Ratner to redesign Atlantic Yards so its skyscrapers do not "block the clock"—the celebrated four-sided timepiece atop the landmark Williamsburgh Savings Bank building near the intersection of Flatbush and Fourth avenues.

Currently, Ratner's plan calls for a 62-story building—nicknamed "Miss Brooklyn"—by its architect Frank Gehry—one block south.

West said Ratner's building could exist there—and not "block the clock"—if the Gehry-designed basketball arena was shifted to the east and Miss Brooklyn set back further from Flatbush Avenue.

Secondly, West called for Ratner to not close off some streets, such as Fifth Avenue between Flatbush and Atlantic avenues (which would be near center court) and Pacific Street between Carlton and Vanderbilt Avenues—a denigrating that Ratner says is essential for the creation of his project's seven acres of green space.

Perhaps, but West also assailed that "public"

park as not public at all.

"Parks need to be bordered by streets, not surrounded by buildings," he said, likening the Ratner design to the central green space of Stuyvesant Town, a Manhattan development where large residential buildings inhibit, rather than encourage, public use of the "parks."

West did say that Ratner was making positive strides towards creating a lively streetscape. Near the arena, for example, Gehry has drawn in cafes, stores and other businesses that encourage pedestrian traffic.

But West cautioned that designs don't always equal reality, showing a photo of Ratner's Atlantic Center Mall, which has neither doors nor windows on the Fort Greene side.

On his last point—traffic—West just sighed and said that the car-clogged intersection may simply not be able to handle any new development.

Forest City Ratner Vice President James Stuckey—who attended West's press preview, but did not stick around for the community forum—said he appreciated the Municipal Art Society presentation.

"We are in full agreement with three of their five design principles right off the bat," Stuckey said. "Our open space will be public and the streets will be lively. This is not a project for big box retail."

Stuckey added, "We agree [with the Municipal Art Society] on the need for a transportation plan that works," Stuckey said.

But he insisted that demurring Pacific Street between Carlton and Vanderbilt avenues was essential for landscape architect Laurie Olin's greenspace design.

"If we take out that one street, we can design a park that will save 1.8 million gallons of water a year," Stuckey said, referring to Olin's retaining ponds.

"If Pacific Street remains open, that's 1.8 million gallons a year going into the Gowanus Canal."

Overall, Stuckey disagreed that the project "does not work."

"The Society said there were five design principles and that they can't simply be reduced to a magic number of density," he said. "But the Society also has the advantage of not having to look at the economics of the project. We have \$1 billion in site costs. And it will take \$50 million for environmental remediation of the [open space] site."

Opponents of the project cheered the society's overall conclusion, but were not ready to concede the main point that Atlantic Yards is "the" plan.

"My problem is with the Society's world view," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn. "We don't think that because Forest City Ratner has proposed something it should be the framework for a conversation about what's best for the area. This plan can still be rejected and a better one created."

were hailed by Atlantic Yards opponent Alan Rosner, who mentioned shadowing at last week's forum.

"Even the president says we're being doctored to go, so we need to be adding to what we can do to develop solar power," Rosner said. "But Ratner would deprive us of that."

Charles Jarden was simply concerned about the garden on the top of his five-story building on Fort Greene Place.

"We use our roof deck all year, so it's very disturbing," he said. "The sun is currently unblocked, so this would be a big, unworkable change."

A Forest City Ratner spokesman would not respond to questions about the shadows.

SHADOWS...

Continued from page 1

have an official position on Ratner's 17-scraper, 8.7-million-square-foot arena, office and hotel development, but were speaking out now because so little has been said about the effect of the shadows.

The issue did come up at last week's Municipal Art Society forum (see story, above), but not as urgently as Porter hoped.

"I'm speaking out because I won't take this crap anymore," he told The Brooklyn Papers. "These shadows are a serious environmental impact."

Porter said that shadows will

be minimal during the summer, when Brooklyn, like the rest of the northern hemisphere, is tilted toward the sun.

"But in the winter, suddenly there'll be no light across most of Fort Greene most of the day," said Porter, who added that a forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement for the project "won't be worth the paper it's printed on" if only summer shadow impacts are analyzed.

"That's how you'll know that the EIS is a sham—if they only give the summer numbers," he said.

The professor's findings

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GRADUATION 2006

Area college grads head out into the real world

The Brooklyn Papers

The Class of 2006 has come and gone at Brooklyn's institutions of higher learning.

The birds twittered, the sun shone and caps flew as this year's graduates matriculated into the world to make their mark.

Although Borough President Markowitz couldn't make it to all the commencement ceremonies, they didn't lack for pomp and circumstance.

Here are some glimpses into the first day of the rest of the Class of '06's lives.

Long Island University

Thursday, May 11, at the Campus Athletic Field

Undergraduate degrees: 723
Graduate degrees: 852
Doctoral degrees: 59
Honorary degrees: Richard Parsons, chairman of the board and CEO of Time Warner; Lani Guinier, professor at Harvard Law School (and former nominee for U.S. attorney general); Richie Havens, musician; Juan Williams, senior correspondent for the National Public Radio.

Valedictorian: Christopher Thompson

Excerpt from Parsons address:

"[I]f you want to be remembered for more than just the size of your income, seek to serve some good greater than your own. I would not be standing here today were it not for the sacrifices of a whole generation of courageous Americans of all colors and walks of life who challenged this nation to live up to its promise of equal opportunity for all."

Excerpt from valedictorian's address:

Success should not be measured by our material possessions or the number of zeros in our bank accounts. We have spent so much time working hard and having fun, but what does it all mean? I have come to realize that a large part of who I am is a reflection of the people closest to me and my community at large. That being said, I challenge each of you here today to give back to your communities in a way that future generations will benefit.

No effort is too small. The cumulative effect of all of our efforts will prove that much more than a tree grows in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn College

Thursday, June 1, Quadrangle

Undergraduate degrees: 1,777
Graduate degrees: 1,238
Honorary degrees: Isaiah Sheffer, playwright and artistic director of Symphony Space; Randy Weston, influential jazz pianist, composer, and lifelong Brooklynite.

Student speaker: Michael McGhee

Excerpt from Sheffer address:

"Who the hell am I to offer advice? Times goes by very fast. Fifty years later they're giving you an honorary doctorate and you're asking yourself, why?"

I guess my message to you graduates is to keep a sharp look out for life's accidents. Accidental opportunities that can lead to good things.

My commencement message: "carpe diem!" Be mindful that the years will fly by like a dream. Stay alert. Keep your eye on the ball, graduates.

Excerpts from student speaker:

Keep writing. We should not look at writing as assignments. We're all authors. It is not what we do, but that we do. Keep writing and let us write with confidence and assurance.

Our education alone does not make us intellectuals. Brooklyn College has given each of us the poetic license to write what we see fit.



Above: Two graduates at Polytechnic's ceremony. Below: Honorary degree recipient James Rosenquist (left) with Pratt President Thomas F. Schutte at Pratt's commencement.



NYC College of Technology

Tuesday, June 6, at Madison Square Garden

Undergraduate degrees: 1,011
Baccalaureate degrees: 671
Honorary degrees: Edwin Schlossberg, accomplished designer and principal designer for ESI Design.

Valedictorian: Deirdre "Dee" Mike

Excerpt from Schlossberg address:

I think from now on your task will be to make the most of what is around you. Make as many of your moments of being [as possible]. Being useful to others is the best gift you can give yourself.

We will have to work with others. Only by being a member of a team will we be able to make great discoveries.

Your ability to be a part of a team is essential if you're going to be successful.

Excerpt from valedictorian's address:

We are all statistics. When we move our tassels from right to left, we will increase the number of college graduates.

The only limits now are the ones we place on ourselves.

We are positive statistics and we are on our way. We [are going into] a world that is not ready for our greatness.

Kingsborough Community College

Monday, June 12, at the Marine and Academic Plaza, Kingsborough campus

Undergraduate degrees: between 1,500 and 1,600 (plus 700-800 associate degrees)

Keynote Speaker: Jeff Koinaris, CNN Africa correspondent and KCC graduate

Valedictorian: Kimo Williams

Excerpt from valedictorian's address:

Kingsborough has been the quintessential medium, not just for my academic growth and development, but for my professional and personal fruition as well.

Sharing our struggles

the first step on our journey to self-actualization. The most important thing that we must keep in mind is that life itself is a continuous learning cycle and each day is filled with worthwhile lessons, so as you continue along your path, guys, never stop learning.

Medgar Evers College

Saturday, June 3, Bedford Avenue building

Undergraduate degrees: around 800
Keynote Speaker: State Sen. David A. Paterson (D-Manhattan)

Valedictorian: Shaun Abrams

Excerpt from Paterson address:

I am always struck by how many people are convinced that newer is always better, that progress means leaving the past behind. I don't feel that way at all. If there's one thing I've learned in my career about being successful, it's that you have to remember where you come from.

When you start your new job tomorrow, what you learned yesterday matters. Nothing worth having comes easily. You will all confront obstacles as you create your new lives. Finding a good job, finding a place to live, and creating a life that answers the questions that you have, that is hard. But everyone here has a master's degree in overcoming obstacles. And some of you have doctorates.

St. Joseph's College

Friday, June 2, the College Mall

Honorary degree: Johanna Duncan-Potter, deputy commissioner in the New York State Department of Education.

Valedictorian: Mary Goodwin

Excerpt from valedictorian's address:

One of the first things that should simultaneously touch your minds and hearts are the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Many of us felt as if we were living in a world with no control, no influence, no power over the decisions that would impact our lives.

Well, congratulations! We are one step closer to being in control.

My fellow graduates of the class of 2006, we are leaders! We will soon be calling the shots in this great nation of ours. Doing so will not be a right, but rather, a duty!

At freshman orientation I heard a statistic that has remained with me until this very day: less than two percent of the world's population has the privilege of obtaining a college education. It was then that I began to realize just how blessed all of us were.

Polytechnic University

Sunday, June 4, at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center

Undergraduate degrees: 850
Honorary degree: Sym Sternberg, chairman of the board

See GRADS on page 17

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CITY TECH IS NY

HS scholars chew over the big issues



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The Brooklyn Papers

The end of the school year can mean only one thing: It's time for a good old-fashioned valedictorian smackdown.

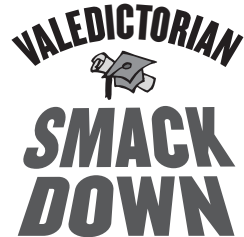
The Brooklyn Papers interviewed dozens of the borough's best and brightest and selected three future leaders to eat some free pizza and hash out the issues of the day.

The participants were: Justin Barozie of Bay Ridge's Xavierian HS, whose 101.9 average, solid extracurriculars, and how you say, 'joie de vivre,' earned him a scholarship to Rensselaer Polytechnic; Maya Glushankova, a Belarus native, student president at Lafayette HS in Bensonhurst and an incoming freshman at NYU; and Yvette Clairjeane, valedictorian at St. Joseph's HS in Downtown Brooklyn, where she was managing editor of the yearbook and student council president.

In the end, the trio got along better than we'd expected, turning our "smackdown" into an hour of friendly conversation. But we did get some insights about government, patriotism and what we can all expect from Brooklyn's future leaders.

Sara Vogel and Gersh Kuntzman led the discussion.

Q: It's your world now, so old fogeys like us want to know what you are going to do with it? [long pause]



Glushankova: I have no idea! You have such hard questions!

Q: Well, is our country moving in the wrong or right direction?

Barozie: I don't see how it can be moving in the wrong direction. There's always going to be problems when change occurs, but in the long run, I think we're moving in the correct direction.

Clairjeane: The country's supposed to be based on democracy, but if you look at it, we're not as free as other countries are. The government can listen to our phone conversations saying it's for security purposes, they can check your email.

Barozie: But what country is more free?

Clairjeane: I'm just saying we're not as free as we claim to be.

Glushankova: I think that compared to my native country (Belarus), this country is really, really free.

Q: Well you lived in a dictatorship.

Glushankova: But it's called a republic, it has a democracy. But it's scary to voice your opinion in my native country. The magazines, newspapers, and television there have no right to say anything about the president.

Q: Is criticizing the president here, in America, unpatriotic or all-American?

Barozie: In America, you're allowed to voice your

opinion. I'd listen to [people that had-mouth the country]. But don't just say something — actually take charge and do something about it.

Q: Do kids actually talk about the big issues today? I'd imagine if anyone was doing it, it'd be you guys.

Clairjeane: Most people in my school think our country's going in the wrong direction. They don't agree with the war.

Q: What do you think?

Clairjeane: I don't agree with the war. I agree we should protect ourselves from terrorism, but I don't see how taking over Iraq is benefiting us. Our soldiers are being killed, people's lives are being taken.

Q: Well, you guys are around the age of most soldiers. How would you react if you were called to fight in Iraq?

Barozie: It wouldn't be my number one thing to do, but I would do it. You have to fight for your country, what you believe in. I don't necessarily believe we did what was correct in the Iraq war. But if that's the way our president wants to run the country, he was elected president. You can tell him, write letters, but he's president.

Clairjeane: No, [I wouldn't go]. I don't think we're fighting for the right reasons.

Barozie: So if there was a draft, you'd go against it and face charges?

Clairjeane: I don't see myself fighting in this war or any



Maya Glushankova, Justin Barozie and Yvette Clairjeane enjoy some pizza during our valedictorian Smackdown at The Brooklyn Papers' DUMBO office.

other war.

Q: Do you see yourselves having leadership roles in the future? Or do you want to get a job, make money and have kids?

Glushankova: Not a bad idea! [laughs]

Clairjeane: I'm very into politics, but I don't know if I myself would run for office. Politics is a game. You come

in, you have this agenda, you want to change things, you're new. And once you get there, you have to follow a certain protocol. Things can't be changed overnight.

Q: Did you get a good education?

Glushankova: The newspapers and the media say my school is so bad, and it doesn't have such a good reputation.

But I loved my school. You can write that down. A person who wants to learn, he will learn, no matter what school.

Q: Are you looking forward to college?

Barozie: For the first time, we're on our own. I hear dorm life is pretty good.

Glushankova: [laughs] I'll be living with my parents.

Clairjeane: Me too.

Meet the heads of the Class of '06

By Sara Vogel

The Brooklyn Papers

They were born when the Reagan presidency was winding down and Axl Rose was, to some, the era's weighty intellectual.

And now the Class of 2006 is graduating.

Oy, does the world have a chance of surviving?

The evidence is mixed. Only 40 percent of Brooklyn's class of '06 passed its last standardized reading test back in eighth grade.

But when The Brooklyn Papers caught up with the cream of the Class of 2006 — the valedictorians — we discovered a diverse group ready to take on global challenges.

Starting with the trash in the school cafeteria.

Theresa Burns of Fontbonne Hall Academy in Bay Ridge personally sifted through post-lunchtime refuse, collecting cans and bottles with her school's recycling club. The cash from deposits — \$1,000 this year — went to charity.

But are all of this year's valedictorians (virtually all young women — except at the boys' schools, that is) equally dedicated and committed to their world? Are



Xaverian valedictorian Justin Barozie (center) at the Model UN Conference in Berlin, Germany. Barozie was a member of the Security Council representing the United Kingdom.

they the best and the brightest? Are they going to fix our broken planet? Or did they know just enough to pass the Regents and can't wait to get to college to do some serious partying?

We report, you decide.

• Olga Zverovich is living the American Dream. She could speak a word of English when her family escaped hard times in Belarus in 1998 for the relative safety of Kings Highway. After four years studying math at Brooklyn Technical HS in Fort Greene, she's going to

Harvard.

"It has a strong math department," she said. That, and a one-way ticket to a six-figure salary — except that Zverovich wants to be a math professor. A four-year veteran of the math team, she was also the school's only semi-finalist in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search this year.

Years of perfect grades in algebra and calculus have required that she impart some words of wisdom to her graduates on June 27 — not that she's written her speech yet.

"I'm kind of a procrastinator," she said. She speaks perfect English now — but remains more comfortable using formalisms.

• Maria Christina Ignacio, the valedictorian at Bishop Laughlin Memorial HS in Fort Greene, is full of contradictions.

Just because we're young doesn't mean we're not aware," she said, quickly admitting that the apathy of her cohorts is the biggest problem in her neighborhood, Canarsie.

She compensated for her peers' lack of social commitment this year by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and working at soup kitchens, community parks and at a walk for breast cancer survivors.

She wants to be an anesthesiologist, not for the yacht or the beach house, but because she likes "the idea of relieving people of their pain."

She is already slated to transfer to Cornell after a freshman year at SUNY Binghamton.

• When Idriss Sani, valedictorian of Arts and Technology in Bay Ridge, visited her parents' native Bangladesh, she was appalled by the poverty. With age



Michael Patlingrao adjusts Daniel Abramson's tie at the Berkeley Carroll School graduation on June 16.

apportune idealism, she vowed to work for Doctors Without Borders after graduating from Columbia University's engineering school and subsequent year at med school.

"In many Muslim countries, females are supposed to be checked out by female doctors only," she said. Some can't wait for the day when she can leave her home in Kensington for the impoverished streets of foreign slums.

"Being a doctor is a direct way to help the people," she said.

• Talk about brash: Justin Barozie, valedictorian of Xaverian HS in Bay Ridge, worked with other members of his Model United Nations team to "edit" the UN's Millennium Development Goals — "to make them more realistic," he said.

When he's not debating global poverty policy in Berlin, Stockholm and Tokyo, he can be spotted on the streets of Bay Ridge, shadowing state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge). As the senator's intern, Barozie joined the fight for benches on Third and Fifth avenues — a fight that may have

contributed to his decision to become an engineer instead.

He'll be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on a scholarship next year.

• Amarilis Manon proved that getting the highest average at Downtown's Pacific HS (where the valedictorian had a 73 average) doesn't require extensive knowledge of current events.

"I don't know," she said, when asked to define the biggest problem in her neighborhood. "Crime is bad."

But Manon's disinterest in local affairs is surpassed by her passion for music — anything from Björk to Jay-Z. That's where she hopes to make an impact, starting, eventually, by enrolling at Five Towns College, a community college, on Long Island.

"[Music is] creative, it's something I'm good at," she said. "I don't just want to be filling papers."

• Samantha Chan of the Cobble Hill School of American Studies is a bit shy. But she was captain of the public school's bowling team.

"It's one of the only sports I can play," she said. And her 91 average — in her studies, not at the bowling lanes — is granting her the chance to

come out of her shell for a speech at graduation.

"I'm going to talk about how I'm happy that I knew such great people in this school," she said. Chan plans to pursue pharmacy at Hunter College.

• Yvette Clairjeane of Downtown's St. Joseph's HS was certainly the resident overachiever in her neighborhood. A Eucharistic minister at her church, the managing editor of her high school yearbook, a member of her school's liturgy and ministry club, and president of the student council this year, it's a wonder she found time to help the poor and run charity walk-a-thons.

Interested in government and psychology, Clairjeane will attend St. John's University.

• Theresa Burns, the recycler from Fontbonne Hall, does more than just pick through the trash. A bright-eyed actress headed to New York University's performing arts school, Burns has been acting in community theater since she was 8.

Although most teen stars have big screen aspirations, Burns prefers the stage.

But she's also a realist. "If the opportunity came along to be in a movie, I'd take it," she said.

Local high school graduations

The Brooklyn Papers

Area high schools provided the following information about their June graduating classes.

Bay Ridge Preparatory

June 2, 2006

21 students

Valedictorian: Alison Caporino

Brooklyn Friends School

June 14, 2006

35 students

Xaverian High School

June 3, 2006

268 students

Valedictorian: Justin Barozie

Fontbonne Hall Academy

June 3, 2006

110 students

Valedictorian: Theresa Burns

Salutatorian: Kristin Uzzi

HS of Telecommunication Arts and Technology

June 27, 2006

130 students

Valedictorian: Samantha Chan

Salutatorian: Raphael Williams

St. Ann's School

June 13, 2006

80 students

Valedictorian: Lamesta Majors

St. Joseph High School

June 10, 2006

Valedictorian: Yvette Clairjeane

Salutatorian: Marie Tobia St. Germain

64 students

Cobble Hill School of American Studies

June 27, 2006

130 students

Valedictorian: Samantha Chan

Salutatorian: Raphael Williams

St. Ann's School

June 13, 2006

80 students

Valedictorian: Lamesta Majors

St. Joseph High School

June 3, 2006

268 students

Valedictorian: Justin Barozie

Salutatorian: Kristin Uzzi

HS of Telecommunication Arts and Technology

June 27, 2006

130 students

Valedictorian: Samantha Chan

Salutatorian: Raphael Williams

St. Ann's School

June 13, 2006

80 students

Valedictorian: Lamesta Majors

St. Joseph High School

June 3, 2006

268 students

Bishop Laughlin HS

June 13, 2006

197 students

Valedictorian: Maria Christina Ignacio

Salutatorian: Jeannie Guzman

Brooklyn Technical HS

June 27, 2006

937 students

Valedictorian: Olga Zverovich

Salutatorian: Islam Shwaki

Susan S. McKinney Secondary School for Arts

June 23, 2006

59 students

Valedictorian: Nicole Williams

Salutatorian: Tamara Grant

Berkeley Carroll School

June 16, 2006

49 students

Bishop Ford Central HS

June 3, 2006

Valedictorian: Carla Austin

St. Saviour High School

June 2, 2006

Valedictorian: Vanessa Mera

Salutatorian: Rebecca Lachan

GRADS...

Continued from page 16 and CEO of New York Life Insurance; Bill Drayton, founder of Ashoka, a "social entrepreneurial organization"; Clifford H. Golden, retired vice-chairman of Philip Morris; Laura Parsons, psychologist who works with children with developmental problems and former trustee of the University. Valedictorian: Mohammad Alam

Except from valedictorian's address:

Yes, books can teach you theories and applications, but only people, professors and peers, can teach you real life situations and their solutions.

Today, I want each and every one of you to make a pledge: [When you step out that door, and walk into the

real world, reach out to the people around you and learn from them. Many of us rely too much on mass media to get information about things, but we never look at the real life resources around us, the people we walk amongst. If we don't learn from them, how can we make the right judgment about someone?

St. Francis College

Wednesday, May 31, at the Brooklyn Marriott

Undergraduates: 304

Honorary degrees: Patrick Fitzgerald, Brooklyn native and the United States Attorney investigating the CIA leak case; Sister Elaine Roulet, who ministers to women in prisons; John Monaghan, friend and

benefactor of the college, for exemplifying "Franciscan ideals."

Valedictorian: Elena Arkova

Except from valedictorian's address:

In Russia, where I am originally from, we say that it is much better to have 100 friends than 100 rubles. I think that it is important to remember this little piece of ancient folk wisdom today when it seems like anything can be bought and sold.

It definitely has been a long way from my first St. Francis speech to my last. And everything that has occurred to me in between these two memorable speeches makes me believe that nothing happens by accident, there is always a reason behind everything that occurs. I hope the tiny little story will make you a believer too.

— compiled by Brendan Nyshyiw

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